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AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

A bimonthly magazine devoted to the results of bird watching

Published by the National Audubon Society in Collaboration with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Cover photograph of red-tailed hawk by Fran Hall

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nesting Season reports for the period June 1 through August 15 are due on August 20

Deadline for Breeding Bird Census, September 15th

Christmas Count dates: Saturday, December 24, 1949—January 1, 1950, inclusive

Christmas Count Corrections.—Please make the following corrections in the summary of largest counts of individuals on the 49th Christmas Bird Count in the April 1949 issue of *Audubon Field Notes*: on page 153, "turkey, 14 (*S.C.*, Charleston)"; on page 154, "Canada jay, 3 (*Minn.*, Duluth)"; and on page 155, "tree sparrow, 1338 (*N.J.*, Boonton)."

THE CHANGING SEASONS

A Summary of the Spring Migration

Ludlow Griscom

The extraordinary severe winter in the Far West does not seem to have had much effect on the spring birds, barring the simple fact that the migration was generally late in getting under way, and in the northern states it was a late spring. In California the situation was complicated by the second very dry April in succession, and Dr. Linsdale attributes the scarcity of many land birds to a combination of a severe winter and drought conditions. No regional editor reports any marked decrease of birds as due to the severe winter.

In southern Texas and the Gulf coast states the editors clearly explain the necessity of a succession of northern cold fronts to produce a good migration from the point of view of the observers. Under these conditions the birds put down, otherwise they fly by without stopping. The weather was too good in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the observers report a "poor" season. Dr. Lowery, however, busy with a telescope trained on the moon, found the normal number of birds passing over at night. Coastal Texas had many cold fronts, and the migration was the best in many years; tremendous counts of many land birds were obtained on Galveston Island, Rockport and other favorable places.

Most of the eastern United States enjoyed a very warm and early spring after the winter of historic mildness. These conditions lasted through April and often into early May, with a resultant abnormal advance of vegetation. Even in those sections where the balance of May was relatively cool, the weather remained calm and pleasant; there were not sufficient contrasts to hold up the migrating birds. There were consequently few or no great "waves," the birds trickled through daily, and most observers reported a very disappointing season, as they saw most of the transient species in small numbers. Actually the proper number of birds reached their northern breeding grounds at the proper time! Reverting to Dr. Lowery's findings with his telescope, I desire to put on record the experience of Mr. James F. Baird in Massachusetts (Amherst). On a warm, still night in mid-May there was a tremendous migration of olive-backed thrushes overhead (several thousand at least in an hour) and the chips of many warblers. Expecting a great wave, he took the field the next morning and found no flight of birds worth mentioning; *he did not see a single* olive-backed thrush!

Northern observers were much surprised to note that the migration of the tropical American contingent of land birds did not reflect the early and advanced season. There were a few early stragglers, relatively few in the middle, and many birds in late May and early June, as in a particularly cold and backward season. Perhaps the numerous cold fronts in coastal Texas account for the disrupted effect of the migration in the Northeast.

There were several southern cyclonic storms along the Atlantic seaboard bringing the usual southern stragglers and other species at freak, early dates. Among others I note some brown pelicans in southern Virginia, a frigate bird in southern New Jersey, a flock of sooty terns off Long Island, N. Y., summer tanagers and mid-April indigo buntings in Massachusetts.

Gannets.—Rapidly increasing; 1800 passing by off Cape Cod in one day.

Herons.—The increase of the southern species and their northward trend continues apace. More than ever of all the possible species this spring in eastern Massachusetts. The American egret rapidly increasing in the inland prairie states. The Louisiana heron reported from New Jersey, Long Island and eastern Massachusetts (third record).

Glossy ibis.—Wanderers every spring now in the Northeast; this year New Jersey (3), Massachusetts (2), and Vermont.

Geese.—Splendid flight of every possible species from the Rocky Mountains eastward. A gathering of 30,000 snow geese at Cap Tourmente, Quebec. Blue geese continue to spread east and west on their migrations. Fine concentrations of brant reported from both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

Ducks.—On the whole an excellent flight of most species throughout the eastern half of the country. Local increases of many species reported, few of decreases.

Hawks.—Continued decline in the northern Great Plains.

Bob-white.—Some increase in Ohio, southern Ontario and eastern Massachusetts.

Woodcock.—Some increase in Ontario and as many as ever in the Appalachian district. One observer in southeastern Ohio reports 100 singing males in a night's cruise.

Shorebirds.—Continued increase of many species, notably the avocet and marbled godwit. Some of the interior or "western" species are spreading out on migration, notably the golden plover (records from Maryland and Long Island, N. Y.). There were more reports of Hudsonian curlew than usual in the interior. Three flocks of buff-breasted sandpipers in the northern Great Plains. Hudsonian godwit, several records from coastal Texas, two in North Dakota, and three birds in Kansas.

Certain notable concentrations make good reading. Eared grebe, 2800 in the Bear River marshes, Utah; 20,000 in Malheur Lake, Oregon. Green-winged teal, up to 175,000 at Bear River. Ruddy duck, unprecedented gathering of 20,000 at Bear River. Broad-winged hawk, a flight of 11,000 on April 5 in eastern Texas. Sandhill crane, an estimated 15,000 through eastern Montana during its spring migration.

Southern land birds.—A steady flow of "northern" records, such as gnatcatchers in Maine and Massachusetts, nesting in western New York and southern Ontario; worm-eating warbler (Toledo, Ohio, and southern Ontario); prothonotary warblers in northern New Jersey (several), Long Island, N. Y., Massachusetts; and Ontario; Ken-

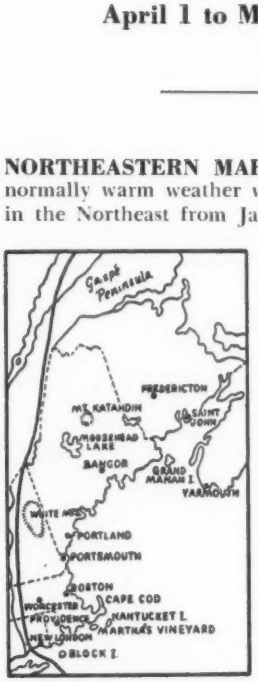
tucky warbler in Massachusetts; painted bunting in Kansas. Blue grosbeaks and the wood thrush steadily increasing and pushing northward.

Western land birds.—Continuing to move eastward are the dickcissel, magpie and western meadowlark. The Brewer's blackbird now breeds in Ontario and is reported from Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. Bell's vireo has been found in southern Illinois and at Louisville, Ky. Numerous casuals are reported from Rockport, Tex., and a scissor-tailed flycatcher in Illinois.

SPRING MIGRATION

April 1 to May 31, 1949

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION.—Abnormally warm weather was the dominating factor in the Northeast from Jan. 1 through the close of the period. The early departure of many winter residents in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Boyer) was accompanied by the earliest spring migration in history in coastal Massachusetts. Geese and prairie horned larks were on the move by Feb. 10, as were straggling land birds of other species. There was a marked "wave" on Feb. 19, when several species arrived in numbers, and further arrivals trickled in the next few days. A long period of cool or cold weather lasted until Mar. 20, which more or less suspended the migration of land birds, though little affecting most of the waterfowl. From then on until the last week in May uniformly high temperature prevailed. The first 9 days of May, for instance, had a heat accumulation of 119° at Boston, with a total of +730° for the year, or an average of better than +5.5° per day! The vegetation was two weeks ahead of normal from the very beginning, and the trees were in full leaf before the May transients arrived in numbers. Moreover there were no storms and no weather contrasts of any significance; the "cool" waves amounted to nothing, and did not suspend the migration.



As the season advanced, more and more people asked: "Where are the birds?" From the point of view of the individual observer the season was not only a failure but the worst they had ever experienced in terms of variety of species and numbers of individuals. Most people near Boston simply could not believe it was possible to see so few of the commonest transients; they kept on waiting and hoping for the great "wave" that never materialized. The only observers who obtained results were those who predicted the outstanding feature of the migration, and who were able to visit daily the best "traps" for transients, and wasted no time in the general run of country. Those who did saw all the possible species and an average count of individuals. Actually there never was a wave worth mentioning the entire spring, or a day when birds flooded the country. The remarkable conditions reduced the avian migration to the characterless one typical of the east coast of Florida, where the migrants trickle through daily, where every day is just as lovely and pleasant as all the preceding days, and the observer sees very few birds.

Ornithologically, however, the spring migration had features of interest, particularly with the May migrants from tropical America. Their schedule did not reflect the abnormally warm weather and the advancement of the vegetation. With many species the schedule was patently disrupted, suggesting factors causing some hold-up far to the south. The normal complement of swifts and swallows did not appear until late May. The migration appeared to wane by May 20, only to begin again May 22-24; there was a marked flight May 29-30, and a final flurry on June 5, events characteristic of cold and backward seasons. With bird after bird there were a few early individuals, many very late individuals, and hardly any in the middle, the peak period of the flight normally.

Gannets.—Steadily and rapidly increasing in recent years; over 1800 passing by Cape Cod, Apr. 10.

Herons, ibises.—Excellent flight of the great blue, particularly in late March, over 100 passing one Maine point in a day. More spring southern herons than ever before; a snowy egret in southern New Hampshire (Delano), and a Louisiana heron at Marshfield on May 25 (Harris, Mazzeo). A glossy ibis remained for several weeks at a flooded cedar swamp at South Hanson.

Geese.—Fine flight of Canadas and brant throughout, both very early and remaining very late. The concentration of Canadas at Merrymeeting Bay, Me., reached 15,000. Snow geese were reported throughout, in flocks up to 150 birds in Maine and 60 in eastern Massachusetts.

Ducks.—Very good flight of all the usual spring species. There never were so many green-winged teal in the historic period. The numbers of wood ducks, scaup, and red-breasted mergansers were particularly good. A drake European teal spent several days at South Hanson, and was seen at close range with green-wings by numerous observers; another (or the same?) was found at Plum Island under equally favorable circumstances much later (R. C. Curtis, Griscom, and many others).

Hawks.—Good flight of all the usual species in March and April, the migration ending early. There were more goshawks and eagles than usual.

Rails.—Arrived in eastern Massachusetts, earlier than ever previously known. The Virginia arrived at Lynnfield in late March and was common on Apr. 2, when the first king rail was heard. Mr. Boyer reported several yellow rails at the Midgic Marsh, N. B., on May 4.

Shorebirds.—Good flight on the whole, with a fine peak on Cape Cod, May 28-29; 2000 turnstones, many thousand peep and sanderling, over 100 knots. The late species still abundant on June 5.

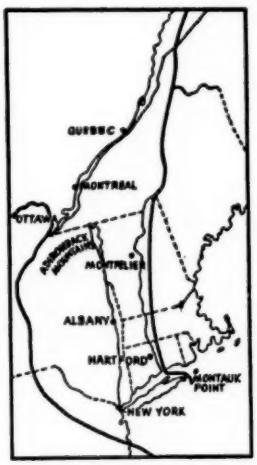
Terns.—In surprisingly poor numbers north of Boston, and very late; in normal numbers southward. A few least terns are now definitely reestablished north of Boston, returning year after year to Ipswich beach and the south end of Plum Island. For some years they have been declining on the outer Cape, and increasing on Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and Plymouth beach. It was, therefore, a surprise that Crain and Eliot found a flock of 100 migrants on a small beach on Nantucket Sound, Chatham, on May 28.

Cuckoos.—Argument has raged for decades as to the reasons for the violent fluctuations in numbers of these two birds in the Northeast, and it has been noticed that a scarcity of cuckoos can be correlated with the absence of spring tent caterpillars. Never satisfied with this explanation, I desire to put on record better than average numbers of cuckoos this year, and *no* caterpillars for the *second year* in succession; there were almost no cuckoos last year.

Song birds.—As related at the beginning, the numbers of transients were on the whole poor to average, but every possible species was found by the most active observers. The invasion of the "southern" element continues apace. We now take for granted the usual number of gnatcatchers bound for goodness knows where. There were at least 5 hooded warblers, a male prothonotary in full song in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, on May 17 (Crain and others), and a yellow-throated warbler at Nahant, Apr. 23 (Ruth Batchelder). Mrs. de Windt found a male summer tanager at Marblehead Neck in mid-May, and Frances Elkins showed me a female at Nahant on May 26. A large party of us surrounded a seaside sparrow on Plum Island, May 22. Mr. Boyer tells me that shovellers, coot, and long-billed marsh wrens (subspecies unknown) are back in New Brunswick, and about to nest. Kimball Elkins found a male Kentucky warbler in Mt. Auburn Cemetery on Apr. 28, an astonishing date for so rare a straggler. It was tame and sluggish, walking about on the open lawn, tolerating 20 observers at a time and permitting color photography; it remained 4 days and I know that at least 70 people saw it. I cannot imagine better validation of a sight record.

In a very different category is an immature eared grebe seen in the surf off Plum Island on Mar. 27 by Eliot, F. Elkins, Griscom, Mr. and Mrs. Higginbotham, Dorothy Snyder and Cora Wellman. The moment it was sighted, a strange grebe was called. A 40-power Zeiss telescope was immediately trained on it, and it was studied for some time as it drifted leisurely northward. I recognized it at once, familiar with both subspecies in life. Finally at my suggestion the whole party tore down from the dunes to the beach, getting within 40 feet of the bird before it became alarmed and swam out to sea. To those who might ask "why a different category," I reply that it did not remain for 4 days, it could not be photographed, it was seen by 7 people instead of 70. Moreover the eared grebe has never been reported in New England or collected on the Atlantic seaboard in historic times, while the Kentucky warbler has recently been collected near Boston, and comes from a lesser distance. None of these facts is the fault of the observers, all of whom saw the Kentucky warbler also!—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Mass.*

HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION.—February 1949 was the second warmest on record in the southern part of the region, the mean temperature averaging nearly 8° above normal at New York City; the highest reading was 71° on the 15th. In the second half of the month the thermometer rarely fell below freezing. The ground was practically snow-free until the last day of the month. Then a rather heavy fall occurred but the cover remained on the ground for but a day. The early warm weather seemed to accelerate the early migrants. In mid-February 150 robins were seen at Lawrence, L. I., and at Saranac, N. Y., the first robin appeared on Mar. 2, 10 days before the usual date. At New Haven, Conn., these birds as well as the red-wings were about 3 weeks early. A large flock of red-wings was at Watertown, N. Y., on Feb. 20 (Mrs. Common) and good-sized flocks of prairie horned larks arrived at Saranac on the same date (Meade). Rusty blackbirds were found at Easthampton, Mass., on Feb. 15 and red-wings on the 16th. A sora rail was seen at Springfield, Mass., from Feb. 23 to Mar. 19. This was in a spot which was well covered by observers during the winter and no rail was then reported. The crow migration was early on Long Island, and at Wells River, Vt., their movement began Feb. 19 and increased regularly thereafter.



March continued the period of high temperatures; the latter half of the month was particularly warm. Migration was about normal until the third

week when the first warblers appeared. Early dates were then in order particularly in the Connecticut Valley. A black-crowned night heron was at Hadley, Mass., on Mar. 22, and tree swallows on the same date. There was a fair hawk flight through the region at this time and a turkey vulture was seen at Mt. Tom, Mass., on Mar. 26.

High temperatures persisted throughout April; the first half was particularly warm and early records continued to be made. A blue-gray gnatcatcher was seen at Northampton, Mass. on Apr. 13; rose-breasted grosbeaks at Egremont, Mass., Apr. 17, and at South Hadley, Mass., Apr. 18 and 19 (Eliot). An eastern kingbird was reported at Peru, Vt., Apr. 28 (Miss Barraclough).

For the first 8 days of May extremely high temperatures continued and then the temperatures dropped and continued low for the remainder of the month. Rain fell on 15 or more days. With these most unusual weather conditions during the migration season it is not strange that the pattern of migration too was unusual. The expected waves of migrants were almost non-existant. About Apr. 20 a moderate wave occurred in the southern part of the region and, a few days later, one was reported from the north. Another wave arrived during the first week of May but it was not general. During the remainder of May the flow of migrants was quite uniform but the numbers were scant. There were no adverse weather conditions to block the movement and to cause concentrations which would be released later in the form of waves when conditions became more favorable. Generally the migration was a disappointment and reports indicate that the numbers of individuals were abnormally low. These decreases were particularly apparent in migrating eastern kingbirds; Tennessee, Nashville, parula, magnolia, black-throated green, Blackburnian, black-poll, Wilson's, and Canada warblers; white-crowned and white-throated sparrows. On the other hand, increases were reported in the wood thrush, eastern bluebird, warbling vireo, golden-winged, black-throated blue, and myrtle warblers, the (northern) yellow-throat, red-wing, rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo bunting.

Loons and grebes.—Inland the loon flight was poor but it was good on the coast. In mid-June many common loons still remained on inland waters in the southern part of the region where they have not been known to breed. In all cases they still retained winter plumage.

Pelagic birds.—Five sooty terns were at Atlantic Beach, L. I., May 22 (Bull, Darrow). An unusual number of Wilson's petrels were in lower New York Harbor in early June.

Herons.—Great blue herons were early at Northampton, Mass.; the first arrived on Mar. 23. Am. and snowy egrets were at Oak Beach, L. I., during early April and snowies were first seen at Massapequa, L. I., on Mar. 26 (Chadwick). A Louisiana heron was reported at Jones Beach, L. I., May 1 (Koppel). Little blue herons appeared in April, one on the 16th at Jones Beach (Grant), another at Stony Point, N. Y., on the 24th (Deed). A least bittern was picked up exhausted at Lido Beach, L. I., Feb. 19 (Elliott).

Ducks and geese.—The flight of Canada geese was good throughout the region. Brant were quite numerous on southern Long Island, 10,000 in late March, one inland report of 50 on Lake Piseco, Hamilton Co., N. Y., May 25 to 31 (Meade). Not many years ago the snow goose was rarely seen in migration between Delaware Bay and the St. Lawrence River. Now the appearance of this goose is not at all unusual in the region. Some of this spring's records were 46 on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain, Mar. 30 (Ball); 3 at Greenfield, Mass., Feb. 13; 8 over Mt. Tom, Mass., Mar. 27; 500+ at Swanton, Vt., April 1 (Minns), and 18 over the central Green Mountains, Vt., Apr. 4 (Decker). Mr. Decker reported that these geese as well as many Canadas now use a mountain flyway well east of Lake Champlain and between the western and the main ranges of the Green Mountains. At Cap Tourmente, Que., the snow geese arrived at their traditional resting ground on Mar. 25 and the flock reached a maximum of 30,000 birds on May 17. By the end of May all had left for their breeding ground (Cavouette). The flight of wood and ring-necked ducks as well as Am. golden-eyes and the Am. mergansers was better than usual.

Hawks and owls.—The hawk flight in northern New Jersey and at Mt. Tom was fair. The turkey vulture is becoming a more frequent visitor in the northern part of its range; 3, Berkshire Co., Mass., Apr. 30. At Dana, Mass., 2 golden eagles were seen on Mar. 31 and goshawks were seen rather frequently. A barn owl was noted at Wilbraham, Mass., Apr. 17 (Eliot).

Rails and shorebirds.—Two king rails in southwestern Massachusetts, Apr. 30 (Hendricks) and 1 at Lanesboro, Mass., May 14 (Mrs. Vreeland). Although most species of shorebirds were reported, the only ones which appeared in numbers were the "peeps." Several species which normally use other flyways in spring were found here, far east of their usual route. The most numerous of these was the golden plover which was seen frequently. The stilt and buff-breasted sandpipers and the lesser yellow-legs were also noted. Several curlew sandpipers were reported on southern Long Island.

Gulls and terns.—An immature great black-backed gull was seen at Holyoke, Mass., Mar. 27; the little gull was again in the Narrows of New York Harbor. A glaucous gull was seen on Saratoga Lake, N. Y., Mar. 27 (Bartlett and others). Black terns were numerous on Lake Champlain.

Land birds.—The mourning dove is a rare bird at the city of Quebec; 1 was seen there on Apr. 15 (Cayouette). Both cuckoos were plentiful in southern New York and northern New Jersey (Deed). The rough-winged swallow is increasing at Cooperstown, N. Y. (Hill). A Bohemian waxwing was recorded at Watertown, N. Y., Mar. 13 (Mrs. Common). This spring seemed to be a low point in the cycle of the white-breasted nuthatch and the

black-capped chickadee. They were generally recorded in reduced numbers. The wood thrush is continuing its northern extension and is now frequently seen at St. Johnsbury, Vt. (Thompson). Blue-gray gnatcatchers are becoming more common in the region; they now occur quite generally in northern New Jersey and southern New York and were reported from as far north as Northampton; 2, Apr. 13 (Eliot). Reports of the prothonotary warbler are increasing. It was seen in several locations in northern New Jersey and there is one record from Long Island. The bay-breasted warbler as well as the bobolink showed a definite increase in the central Adirondacks. The indigo bunting increased throughout the region; also it arrived very early: Nyack, N. Y., Apr. 25 (Deed), Baldwin, L. I., Apr. 15 (Teale). Some of the wintering evening grosbeaks remained late; a few were still at Williamstown, Mass., on May 11 (Milham) and were still present at Saranac Lake, N. Y., on June 13 (Meade).

Rarities.—A glossy ibis at Swanton, Vt., May 22 to 25 (Miss Ball). At Leverett, Mass., a Swainson's hawk on Apr. 30 (Eliot). The Wilson's plover returned on Apr. 10 to last year's site at Lyme, Conn. The northern phalarope is very rare on our inland waters in the spring but 2 pairs were seen at Coreyville, N. J., on May 22 (Edwards). An Am. magpie was reported from Brooklyn, N. Y., on Apr. 10 (Bloom). A Bullock's oriole wintered in Easthampton, Mass. During April she molted into fresh plumage and definitely removed all question of identity. She was last seen on Apr. 27. A cardinal was reported at Monroe, N. H., Apr. 21, an Oregon junco (ssp.) was seen at Amherst, Mass., Apr. 7 (Eliot). The Harris's sparrow in Burlington, Vt., which was first seen in January disappeared in mid-May.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.*

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION.—Although temperatures during the spring averaged about normal, warm spells brought the vegetation out very early. The migration was spread out with no great waves of small birds, and was consequently rather disappointing. Broun, writing from Hawk Mountain, Pa., stated that in 30 years of bird watching he had never seen such a poor spring.

Pelagic birds.—A late red-throated loon was seen on May 22 at Bethany Beach, Del., by the Md. Ornith. Soc. On May 30, Finkel and others counted 110 Wilson's petrels 50 miles off the New Jersey coast. Jack Perkins saw 3 brown pelicans at Sandbridge, near Back Bay, Va., May 10, following a hard northeast wind. At Virginia Beach on Mar. 20 there were 26 gannets; 300 were seen in the Ocean City, Md., area on Mar. 27; and Scott counted 69 from the Cape Charles Ferry and saw 1 in York Co., Va., on Apr. 19. A man-o'-war-bird was seen by Reimann at Leonard's Thorofare near Avalon, N. J., on June 8. All diagnostic features were noted. The bird caused consternation among the gulls and terns.

Herons.—At the heronry at Stone Harbor, N. J., on May 15 when nesting operations were well under way, 15 Am. egrets, 150 snowies, 1 Louisiana, and 150 little blues were counted coming into the roost in the evening, and 100 night herons going out. A yellow-crowned night heron was seen at Bombay Hook, Del., on April 3 (Kramer, Price). Lawless saw a least bittern in Albemarle Co., Va., May 11 and 21. Glossy ibises were reported at several points: 2 at Salem, N. J., on May 2 (Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. McCoubrie); 1 at Riverton, N. J., May 8 (Linton); 2 at Stone Harbor, N. J., on May 15 (DeCou) and 1 on June 4 (Street).

Swans and geese.—There were 1600 whistling swans at Perry Pt., Md., on Mar. 5, and 500 at Thomas Pt., Mar. 19. The main northward flight took place on Apr. 2-3, with flocks of 60 to 100 over Patuxent Refuge. Broun at Hawk Mt. said that the outstanding sight of the spring was the remarkable flight of Canada geese, flock after flock passing for days. Scott counted 3292 at Curle's Neck, Richmond, Va., on Mar. 27, and with them an adult snow and an adult blue goose. The snow goose migration at Back Bay, Va., was late, with 10,000 present on Mar. 27 and the last birds there on Apr. 12. A wintering blue goose was still present on a farm near Hancock's Bridge, N. J., on May 1 (Mrs. McCoubrie). Another was seen at a small pond in the Jersey pine barrens on Apr. 2 by Terres; and Perkins saw 10 at Back Bay on Mar. 27 and 2 immatures on May 15.

Ducks.—Donnelly and Shelton saw 8 young mallards at Roaches Run Sanctuary, Va., on Apr. 18. A European widgeon was recorded at Chalk Pt., Anne Arundel Co., Md., Mar. 20 (A. N. & E. J. Besson); and a European teal near Salem, N. J., on Apr. 24 (Coman, Weyl). A late flock of 50 green-winged teal was seen on May 6 at Bombay Hook (Low, Stewart); and a very late male in Albemarle Co., Va., on May 11 (Lawless). Blue-winged teal reached their peak in New Jersey in mid-April, with 15 in Salem Co., Apr. 24. Scott carefully identified 2 greater scaup at Richmond, Va., Mar. 6 and 20. Very late ring-necks, drake (Low, Robbins) and duck (Helen Webster), were seen at Bombay Hook on May 22; and a very late bufflehead and canvas-back at Patuxent, May 28 (Stewart). Ruddy ducks were numerous on the Delaware River below Philadelphia until late April, with 1500 on Apr. 24, and they lingered in small numbers to May 15; 30 were seen by Low and Springer at Elliott Island, Md., May 6. An Am.

eider was seen near Ocean City, Md., on May 15 (Cutler, Cadbury); and an immature male was carefully identified by Low, Robbins, and members of the Md. Ornith. Soc. on May 22 at Indian River Inlet, Del.

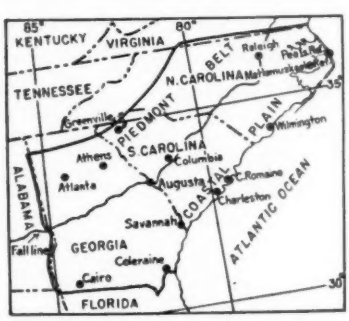
Birds of prey.—Scott counted 337 black vultures around the debris of a day's fishing at Shirley, Va., May 7. He and John Irvine saw a pigeon hawk in Albemarle Co., Va., Apr. 11. Much interest centered around a pair of peregrine falcons which nested again on the City Hall in Philadelphia, laying the eggs on a bare ledge, 100 feet above the street. Nesting operations were closely watched by Groskin, who reported that 2 of the eggs hatched on Apr. 19, 1 being infertile. One young died shortly; the other left the ledge for a short flight on May 29. Starlings appeared to be the main source of food. A pigeon hawk was seen by Broun at Stone Harbor, May 21.

Shorebirds and rails.—A king rail was reported at Port Tobacco, Md., Mar. 12; 2 at Seneca, Md., Apr. 23 (Cross), one at Front Royal, Va., May 29 (J. W. Taylor). A yellow rail was plainly seen and heard at Trenton, N. J., May 30, by McLaughlin, the edge of the white area on the wing being noted. A black rail was found at Beach Haven Inlet, N. J., on May 22 (Kramer). Weyl observed 60 piping plovers at Beach Haven Inlet, Apr. 10. Wilson's plovers were noted in courtship at West Ocean City, Md., April 16 (Stewart), where they are increasing. A very early killdeer nest with 4 eggs was found by Abbott at Fort Belvoir, Va., on Mar. 17. A golden plover, second spring record for Maryland, was seen by Stewart at Ocean City, April 16. Thirty purple sandpipers were counted at Ocean City Inlet, Md., on Mar. 27; 14 on Apr. 16 and 11 on May 7. Ridgley and others found a marbled godwit at Little Beach Inlet, N. J., on June 5; and Haines and Manners saw a northern phalarope at Chincoteague, Va., May 28.

Gulls and terns.—A glaucous gull was seen at Penn Manor, Pa., on Mar. 27 by Reynolds; and an Iceland gull at Camden, N. J., on Mar. 30 by Manners. Weaver saw 5 Caspian terns on the Bird River near White Marsh, Md., on Apr. 18; and 1 was seen in Albemarle Co., Va., by Lawless on May 1. A black tern in breeding plumage was observed at Barnegat, N. J., by Nichols on June 3.

Land birds.—The annual D. V. O. C. spring round-up in the Philadelphia region was participated in on May 15 by 23 groups, 208 species of birds being reported, of which 33 were warblers. Included were a western tanager near Philadelphia (Yoder), and a cerulean warbler in Salem Co., N. J., apparently the first spring record for the county. Reports of blue-gray gnatcatchers were rather numerous. P. A. DuMont found a pair of pileated woodpeckers at the nest hole at Cabin John, Apr. 17. Two red-headed woodpeckers were seen at Lewisburg, Pa., on May 11 (H. T. Ross); and a red-bellied woodpecker at Radnor, Pa., on May 8 (Mr. & Mrs. Lukens). A horned lark's nest with 4 young was found in D. C. on Apr. 19 (Stickley). A young bird of this species, seen with 2 adults by Scott at Curle's Neck, Richmond, on May 7 is much the farthest east breeding record for Virginia. Lawless found a fish crow's nest this spring in a pine near Scott Stadium at the University of Virginia. An olive-sided flycatcher was seen at Stone Harbor, N. J., on May 28 by Culver and others; and one at Moorstown, N. J., on May 27 by Haines. A late hermit thrush was found at Greenbelt, Md., on May 7 (Willoughby). Mrs. Fletcher saw a blue-gray gnatcatcher at Denton, Md., on Mar. 30; and Ridgeley found the species nesting at Princeton, N. J., on May 28, the first record for that place. A very late pipit was seen at Patuxent on May 17 (Robbins & O. Warbach) and 18 (A. H. Benton). A prothonotary warbler seen and heard in May at Scottsville, Va., by Stevens is much the farthest inland record for the state. H. T. Ross saw a Philadelphia vireo at Lewisburg, Pa., on May 11 and 12. Scott counted 37 yellow-throated warblers in the Richmond-Hopewell area on Mar. 27. A tremendous wave of black-polls was noted by Kolb at Loch Raven, Md., May 21. A very early Kentucky warbler was noted by Meanley at St. Mary's City, Md., on Apr. 19. Several mourning warblers were reported near Philadelphia during the last week in May. The only record received of evening grosbeaks was of 6 seen by Broun at Hawk Mountain, Pa., on Mar. 28. Dickcissels appeared at Curle's Neck, Va., for the fourth successive year, 1 to 3 being seen from May 7 to 20 (Scott). Siskins were last seen on May 2 at Patuxent by Low and Robbins. A new colony of Henslow's sparrows, with about 6 singing birds, was found near Scottsville, Va. (Stevens). Mr. and Mrs. Lukens reported 2 partially albino white-throated sparrows at Radnor, Pa., in early May.—JULIAN K. POTTER, 137 *Park Ave., Collingswood, N. J.*, and J. J. MURRAY, 6 *White St., Lexington, Va.*

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION (Carolinas).—An unusually mild winter was followed by near average temperatures and rainfall in April and May. A killing freeze in the central section (Charlotte and Columbia) as late as Apr. 17 possibly destroyed some of the early arrivals but there was no noticeable set-back in nesting dates.



Loons, grebes, pelicans and gannets.—Common loons and horned grebes were abundant along the coast, loons staying as late as May 23 and grebes were seen, May 2, at Wilmington. A pied-billed grebe and a coot in Greenville County, S. C., May 23, are noteworthy. A brown pelican at Ocean Drive, S. C., was about on time on Apr. 9. A gan-

net in immature plumage was seen close inshore near Wilmington, May 11 (Mrs. Appleberry).

Bitterns.—Search was made without success for the nest of an Am. bittern flushed from a bog at Morrow Mt., Stanly Co., N. C., May 8.

Waterfowl.—At Wilmington, red-breasted mergansers were seen in number as late as May 11, and two European widgeon that arrived Jan. 4 were last seen on Apr. 10. Raleigh reported ring-necked ducks, Apr. 12 (D. L. Wray).

Birds of prey.—A bald eagle in immature plumage was shot and captured near Greenville, S. C., May 11. An osprey at Crossnore, Avery Co., N. C., Apr. 7, was unusual (D.L.W.).

Turkeys.—Overing reported a wild turkey near Raleigh, Apr. 3. These are not common outside of refuges.

Rails and shorebirds.—On May 28, 19 knots were counted at Figure Eight Island, near Wilmington (Mrs. Appleberry, *et al.*). Solitary sandpipers were also seen in numbers at Wilmington, May 15. In Greenville Co., S. C., Correll found young spotted sandpipers early in May. A ring-billed gull at Raleigh, Apr. 30, should be mentioned.

Hummingbirds and swifts.—Ruby-throated hummingbirds were very early at Charlotte, Apr. 1, and Columbia, Apr. 6. Chimney swifts were also early at Charlotte, Mar. 27; at Columbia, Apr. 3; and at Hickory, Apr. 16. Chuck-will's-widows and whip-poor-wills were about on schedule.

Flycatchers and swallows.—Flycatchers arrived in the interior sections in mid-April about as usual. Phoebes had four eggs by Apr. 17, at Charlotte. Tree swallows at Ocean Drive, S. C., Apr. 9 (Overing). Rough-winged swallows, Mar. 27, at Raleigh. Barn swallows were seen at Ocean Drive, S. C., Apr. 9, and on May 31, Mrs. Appleberry, at Wilmington, observed an adult on wing feeding four young perched on telephone wires. Martins were seen at Raleigh on Apr. 5.

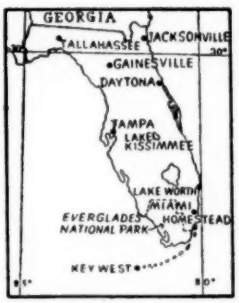
Nuthatches to warblers.—Mrs. W. H. Faver reported white-breasted nuthatches beginning to nest in Richland Co., S. C., Apr. 2. House wrens were seen at Wilmington by Apr. 20 and at Raleigh, Apr. 23. Bewick's wrens remained at feeding station at Columbia until Mar. 13. Gnatcatchers had begun nesting at Raleigh by Apr. 15. The ruby-crowned kinglet at Raleigh, Apr. 30, is somewhat late. The vireos were about on time. A pair of yellow-throated vireos building in a *pine* tree 30 feet up at Charlotte is unusual. The nest was abandoned upon completion on Apr. 17 (B.R.C.).

Warblers.—Prothonotaries had four eggs at Raleigh by May 16. Parulas were at Ocean Drive, S. C., Apr. 9; at Columbia, Apr. 1; and at Raleigh, Apr. 12. A male magnolia warbler was late at Morrow Mt., Stanly Co., N. C., on May 8. Also at Morrow Mt. on May 8 prothonotaries appeared to be breeding but no nests were found. Louisiana water-thrush seen on May 2 was late at Columbia (Mrs. W. H. Faver). Bobolinks were also reported at Columbia by Mrs. Faver, May 3, and on Apr. 16, 23 and 24, she reported a Baltimore oriole at a feeding station there.

Sparrows.—A lone slate-colored junco was unusually late on May 8 at Morrow Mt., Stanly Co., N. C. White-throated sparrows, particularly abundant during the winter, were last reported from Raleigh, May 7; Columbia, May 12; and Charlotte, May 29. Overing at Raleigh saw a swamp sparrow on Apr. 12; fox sparrows left Columbia by Mar. 13.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charlotte, N. C.*

Editor's note.—We regret that Dr. Denton's report from Georgia was received too late for inclusion in this issue.

FLORIDA REGION.—In the Tallahasee area temperatures were slightly above normal in April and May but with excessive rainfall in April and a deficiency in May, small ponds receded or dried up completely. Central Florida, St. Augustine, Gainesville, Tampa, reported very hot and dry weather with a rainfall deficiency since January of 8.11 inches. South Florida had no appreciable rainfall from December to the end of May with consequent excess in temperature. The Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp dried up completely. Canal levels were very low. Migration was normal except for an unusual number of shorebirds in the Tallahassee area; there was a very scanty warbler migration at Tampa and Key West except for abundant Am. redstarts and black-polls at Tampa. Remarkable numbers of Baltimore orioles were seen at Tampa in April (Mrs. Brownsey) and 32 orchard orioles at Key West, Apr. 6 (Mrs. Hames).



Pelicans, herons and ibises.—Late white pelicans in numbers at St. Marks Light, Apr. 23 (Cross). Early in the Tallahassee area, were green heron at Alligator Point, Mar. 18; at Marks Light, least bittern, Apr. 2; wood ibis, Apr. 23 (Stevenson and Cross). Three hundred white ibis were observed near Gainesville, May 7 (Fickett).

Waterfowl.—Most migrants except blue-winged teal and scaup had departed before April. Observations, however, disclosed some late individuals in North Florida: at Alligator Point, Tallahassee area, Am. golden-eye, Mar. 26; black duck, Apr. 23; at St. Marks Light, pintail, buffle-head and shoveller, Apr. 23; horned grebe and baldpate, May 1, (Cross and Stevenson). A pair of wood ducks with young were reported near Gainesville, May 7. (Fickett). Blue-winged teal and scaup remained near Melbourne through April. One pair of teal was noted as late as May 25 and many scaups at Cocoa on the same date (Ford).

Gallinules and shorebirds.—Purple gallinules arrived on the early date of Apr. 9 in the Tallahassee area. Newly-hatched young found at Melbourne on Apr. 29 were being fed by both parents.

Greater and lesser yellow-legs, dowitchers, black-bellied and Wilson's plovers, semipalmated and western sandpipers remained in considerable numbers in Key West and Florida Bay through April (Mrs. Hames, Griswold). Three knots stayed until May 21 (Mrs. Hames). A heavy knot migration occurred at St. Augustine, where 244 were counted May 31; 2 long-billed curlews on the same date; 5 marbled godwits, May 5 (Pangburn). Greater yellow-legs were noted near Panacea, and western sandpipers at Alligator Point, May 23 (Stevenson). Avocets in Cuthbert Lake that reached a peak of 51 during the winter dwindled to 1 bird by the end of April (Brookfield).

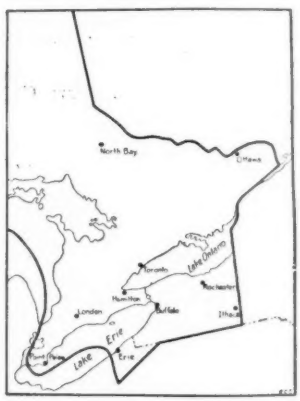
Gulls and terns.—Several ring-billed gulls were still on a lake in Tallahassee, May 1, while Forster's, common, and Caspian terns were at Alligator Point, May 23 (Stevenson). Least terns were first seen at Alligator Point, Tallahassee on Apr. 18 (Stevenson), and at Melbourne, Apr. 16 (Ford). Not 1 black tern appeared this spring at St. Augustine although they were abundant from May 8 to June in 1948 (Pangburg).

Land birds.—Unusually late near Tallahassee were slate-colored junco, Mar. 17; solitary vireo, Apr. 13-16; orange-crowned warbler, Apr. 18; chipping sparrow, hermit thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet and house wren, Apr. 23; western kingbird at Shell Point, Apr. 30, and at Alligator Point, May 14. Even later at Alligator Point were short-billed marsh wren and northern water-thrush, May 14; Cape May warbler and swamp sparrow, May 15; bobolink, May 23 (Stevenson, Cross). At Tampa an increase in nesting cardinals, Florida wrens and blue jays was noted, but with a noticeable decrease in ruby-throated hummingbirds (Mrs. Brownsey). Warbler migration waves occurred at Daytona Beach, Apr. 12-20, with marked increase in black and whites, parulas, prairies, yellow-throats, and Cape Mays; 30 cedar waxwings were still present, Apr. 30; barn swallows appeared at New Smyrna Beach, Apr. 7 (Miss Ames). At Key West, bobolinks in flocks of about 25, all males, passed through Apr. 19 to May 13. Yellow-billed cuckoos began nesting, Apr. 19 (Mrs. Hames). White-crowned pigeons arrived at Key Largo, near Rock Harbor, Apr. 2 (Allen).

Rarities.—Henry Jewett Greene reported: "While in company with Gerald Norman of Winter Park, Apr. 30, saw 2 blue geese on St. Johns River 10 miles south of Highway 50, about 150 feet away from us. Wind from south, showery day. These are the first I have seen in Florida. Are they rare here?" Five to 12 gull-billed terns were observed Apr. 15 to May 3 on St. John River Marshes west of Melbourne (Ford). Two man-o'-war-birds, rare so far north, were seen 12 miles north of St. Augustine, May 30 (Pangburn). Fifty to 70 Am. scoters were reported at Alligator Point, Mar. 18-19. There are few other state records (Cross). New spring records for Leon County are a blue-winged warbler, Apr. 25; olive-backed thrush, May 9; 2 western sandpipers, May 13 (Stevenson).

Oddity.—An almost pure albino red-tailed hawk was seen near St. Marks Light, Apr. 2 (Stevenson).—Charles M. Brookfield, *National Audubon Society, 13 McAllister Arcade, Miami, Fla.*

ONTARIO-WESTERN NEW YORK REGION.—The observation of 300 horned grebes flying upstream above the brink of Niagara Falls on Apr. 21 (Beardslee and Muma) was noteworthy. The great increase in the number of breeding colonies of double-crested cormorants at Lake of the Woods during the past decade or two has been occupying the attention of ornithologists as well as commercial fishermen. During late May and early June, the writer made a census of the 16 nesting rocks and estimated more than 1700 pairs on the 16 known nesting rocks situated in the Ontario waters of the lake.



Geese.—Maximum counts at Stafford's Pond, Oak Orchard Swamp, N. Y. (near Buffalo), were 12,000 between Apr. 5 and 19 (Buffalo Ornith. Soc.). At Muskrat Lake, near Cobden, Ont., Harry Berry has been feeding flocks of this species each spring for several years. This season the maximum present was 5200 (Apr. 19, Overseer P. H. Pierce) and the Department of Lands and Forests provided 400 pounds of grain per day to feed the flocks. In southern Ontario, 6 flocks of blue geese were reported during the present period—more than any previous spring—2 flying west at Lorne Park on Mar. 26 (D. Perks and Lorne Scott), 1 flying west at Long Point, Apr. 10 (R. M. Saunders, *et al.*) and 3 flocks in the Toronto area, Apr. 2, 10 and May 1 (R. Scovell and F. Helleiner). None contained more than 50 geese.

Ducks.—A flock of 5000 pintails on a field at Wolcottsville, western New York, Apr. 3 to 5 (Buffalo Ornith. Soc.) is worthy of note. Two harlequin ducks were observed—1 at Dunkirk, N. Y. (Lake Erie), Mar. 13 to 21 (Elderkin) and 1 on the upper Niagara River, Mar. 15 and Apr. 14 (Lumsden and Muma). The latter was seen off Miller's Creek on the former date and was washed over the Falls, Apr. 14.

Eagles and gyrfalcons.—Signs of prosperity among bald eagles include 6 seen on Mar. 13 at Jordan, Chippawa, Niagara Falls and Navy Island (Baillie, *et al.*). The sole nesting-site on the Niagara River (Navy Island) was disturbed again by photographers, which is unfortunate as the pair of eagles has been trying for several years to reestablish that nesting-site after an absence of 20 years. Two white gyrfalcons were seen during April in the Toronto

region—1 at Grenadier Pond on the 9th (Baillie) and 1 at Streetsville on the 25th (Peggy Mitchell).

Quail.—For the first time in a great many years, bob-white appear to be on the increase in the southern counties of Ontario (Lambton to Lincoln), according to word received from Dr. C. H. D. Clarke, Supervisor of Wildlife Management of the Fish and Wildlife Division, Department of Lands and Forests.

Shorebirds.—Reports indicate a general increase in woodcock in southern Ontario. In the north, at Fort William and Port Arthur, at the head of Lake Superior, it has also been spreading and increasing of late, although there were no records of its occurrence there prior to 1937 (Dr. A. E. Allin). The Hudsonian curlew flight at Toronto passed through about a week later than usual (flock of 117 on May 29, W. W. Smith, R. W. Trowern and D. S. Miller), and other species lingered late in the same region—2 knots, 4 semipalmated plover, a least sandpiper, 50 semipalmated sandpipers and 2 red-backed sandpipers being seen by Dr. R. M. Saunders at Ashbridges Bay, June 12.

Woodpeckers.—The spectacular come-back of the pileated woodpecker in southern Ontario, due to protection, continues. At Melville, near Toronto, a nest was found by Dr. R. M. Saunders on May 1. The first red-bellied woodpecker at Toronto in a quarter of a century was seen in High Park, May 2, by Don Perks.

Magpies, wrens.—The initial record of the Am. magpie for the Rochester area was an individual seen at Braddock's Bay on Mar. 20 by Listman. The second nesting of the Caroline wren at Toronto occurred this year, a nest with 3 eggs and 2 young being shown to F. H. Emery, May 30. It was found by Mrs. J. I. Ridpath and was on a garage rafter.

Gnatcatchers, vireos.—A nest of the blue-grey gnatcatcher at Turkey Point, Ont., found in the process of being built on May 15 by J. McInally, had 3 eggs, plus an egg of the cowbird on May 21, according to J. Moule. The first nesting of the gnatcatcher at Rochester since 1920 was reported in May by Allan S. Klonick of the Genesee Ornithological Society. Two observations of the white-eyed vireo in southern Ontario were reported, 1 at Cedarvale, Toronto, Apr. 18 and 19 (Byron and James Runnings), and 1 at East Sister Island, Essex Co., on May 5 by M. Trautman and R. T. Peterson.

Warblers.—Dr. R. M. Saunders found a prothonotary warbler nest, in course of construction, at Turkey Point, Ont., May 22, in an old drainpipe in a small building. A worm-eating warbler collected at Morgan's Point, Ont., Apr. 25 by H. Axtell is the second Ontario specimen (London, May 28, 1908, W. E. Saunders, R.O.M.Z.).

Blackbirds, longspurs.—The only Ontario Brewer's blackbird colony (8 or 10 pairs, Port Arthur) was visited May 22, and a nest with 5 eggs discovered (L. S. Dear). A **Smith's longspur** seen at Elmvale, Simcoe Co., Ont., May 22 (O. E. Devitt), constitutes the first record south of James Bay, in eastern Ontario.—JAMES L. BAILLIE, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

APPALACHIAN REGION.—In the Appalachian Region the 1949 spring season varied from unusually warm and open in the northern region to cool and rainy in northern Alabama and northern Georgia. Severe storms were wanting, and all observers commented on the lack of pronounced migration "waves." Wood warblers in particular, which often arrive in floods of individuals, drifted through without any pronounced heavy flights. The birds were present as expected, but were scattered and often in seemingly reduced numbers. Abnormally hot weather in early May hastened the northward movement of many species. Despite the open winter and early spring, most migrants arrived about on scheduled time, and some were even later than usual. In northern Alabama, Imhof found that a number of species arrived on the heels of the frequent cool and rainy spells.

Despite the seeming scarcity of many species, all the "Century Day" groups had good luck. The Huntington (W. Va.) Bird Study Club led the field, with 132 species observed on May 1. This was slightly above the list made at Charleston, W. Va., and considerably better than the Morgantown list.

Loons, grebes, herons.—Common loons were not in their usual numbers in the region. The only red-throated loon reported was an individual which spent 10 days at Lake Lynn, Monongalia Co., W. Va. (Frazier & Wylie). In contrast with last spring's flight, there were no Holboell's grebes observed. Horned grebes were scarce, with pied-bills in normal numbers. Near Bridgewater, Va., Carpenter found 3 yellow-crowned night herons in May, observing them on several different days. There was only a single previous record for the region. Imhof flushed an individual of this species from a stand of loblolly pine on a dry hilltop on Apr. 5, in northern Alabama.

Swans and geese.—Due to the open winter, many waterfowl remained north of their usual ranges throughout the season, so it was difficult to determine when spring migration actually began. By mid-February there were good numbers of ducks, and some geese, on all the Appalachian lakes. In general, there were more spring waterfowl than we had seen in many years. During the week of Mar. 25-Apr. 2, McLaughlin found 110 whistling swans on Meander Lake, and 51 on Evans Lake, in northeastern Ohio. He also saw a flock of 200 in passage. Blue and snow geese which had migrated southward through the Appalachians in the fall of 1948 apparently returned this spring. On Mar. 17, Williamson found a blue goose in Cooper's Rock

State Forest, Preston Co., W. Va. DeGarmo found 7 blue geese and 1 snow on a beaver pond in Canaan Valley, Tucker Co., W. Va., on Mar. 28. Two snow geese and a single blue were found by Kyer on Cheat River, near Parsons, Tucker Co., W. Va., on Mar. 27. McLaughlin reported both species from the Berlin Reservoir in eastern Ohio on Apr. 24.

Ducks.—The duck flight was highly gratifying. McLaughlin reported that he could find 18 or 19 species almost every day up to May 15 in eastern Ohio. Redheads and canvas-backs were present in numbers. Almost every observer in the region, in fact, commented on the abundance of redheads. It is highly interesting to note the increasing influence of beaver ponds and farm ponds in the Appalachian region. It was not unusual this spring to find 6 or 8 species of ducks on a single pond, even on the highest Allegheny ridges. One series of ponds on the Roaring Plains, at 4000 feet elevation, had 14 species on one day.

Hawks through rails.—Hawks seemed unusually scarce through the mountains. This is, perhaps, a reflection of the "vermin" campaigns so widespread a few years ago. Happily, these have been largely discontinued. In northern Alabama, Imhof reported good flights of broad-winged hawks from the Appalachian ridges, particularly the Blue Ridge. Ospreys were fairly common along the mountain rivers and at the infrequent lakes. Ruffed grouse, bob-whites, and wild turkeys came through the favorable winter in good shape. Nesting began early, and with apparent success. All 3 species seem definitely to be on the increase. A black rail at Guilford Lake, eastern Ohio, on May 15 is probably the first record for this species from the region (Marshall). Coots were common throughout, unusually so in unglaciated Ohio. Florida gallinules were scarce, however.

Shorebirds, gulls and terns.—Most observers were particularly fortunate in finding shorebirds this spring. Near Elkins, W. Va., a flood control project has created extensive mudflats. Here Mr. and Mrs. DeGarmo found black-bellied plovers, Hudsonian curlews, and white-rumped and red-backed sandpipers, all unusual in the state. McLaughlin noted the same species, with others, in Ohio. Wilson's snipe, comparatively scarce in recent years, were reported in good numbers. Woodcock were more abundant than we had ever seen them before. McLaughlin reported that 100 singing males could be found in his region on any favorable spring evening. Breiding found an upland plover in Jackson Co., W. Va., on May 5. Large flocks of gulls, herring, ring-billed, and Bonaparte's, were about the lakes and larger rivers. As usual, there was a considerable flight of Bonaparte's along the higher Allegheny ridges. Here the birds are often seen miles from water. Black terns were unusually common.

Cuckoos, swifts.—In northern Alabama, Imhof noted that yellow-billed cuckoos were abundant, and commented that they seem invariably to appear in cold or rainy weather. A late migration of chimney swifts was noted by DeGarmo at Durbin, W. Va., on May 21, when 200-300 were seen going to roost in a chimney.

Flycatchers through vireos.—Olive-sided flycatchers appeared in small numbers in the West Virginia mountains, remaining to nest. Swallows were far below their usual numbers. Ravens are still increasing, and each year are found more commonly in the mountain valleys. Bewick's wrens continue their return to territories from which the house wrens had, for some years at least, driven them. Hermit thrushes were in full song on Apr. 14 at their breeding grounds in the Cheat Mountains. Cedar waxwings, absent during winter and early spring at Morgantown, returned in large numbers in May. McLaughlin reported unusual numbers of Philadelphia vireos in northeastern Ohio.

Wood warblers.—As noted previously, the warbler migration seemed poor to most observers. The species were present, but not in their usual numbers. McLaughlin and his associates were able to list 30 species on May 15 in Ohio, but many species were poorly represented. Tennessee warblers, so abundant in West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania in 1948, were present but not abundant. Imhof found black-polls common in Alabama, and this observation was repeated northward. Cape Mays and mournings seemed more common than usual, but bay-breasts were notably scarce.

Blackbirds through finches.—Bobolinks arrived much earlier than usual. Breiding found 5 birds in Jackson Co., W. Va., on Apr. 24. Even the females were gone from Morgantown, however, by May 10, possibly influenced by the heat wave. On May 2, Imhof counted 22 blue grosbeaks in northern Alabama. He also listed 14 pine-woods sparrows on the same date. Breiding found 5 of these birds in Jackson Co., W. Va., on May 1. The same two observers, working the same localities, found dickcissels this spring. Breiding also found lark sparrows in Jackson Co. on May 14. There was the usual heavy spring migration of white-crowned sparrows through the West Virginia mountains.—MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION.—In the Western Great Lakes Region the first two weeks of April were exceptionally mild, but colder weather arrived about Apr. 15, and remained until the end of the month. The precipitation for April, from the records of the Minneapolis Weather Bureau, was 0.34 inches below normal. Very hot weather prevailed again in the entire region during

the first two weeks of May, which brought some May migrants early. In Wisconsin there was a pronounced wave of migrants on May 4 (Robbins), and at Stevens Point, Wis., catbirds and Baltimore orioles, which ordinarily arrive about May 10, arrived this season on May 2 and May 4 respectively (Mrs. N. E. Hughes). The latter part of May was cooler than usual and in Michigan this concentrated the shorebirds, but the last few days were quite warm and produced another "wave" of May migrants. The accumulated deficiency in precipitation continued throughout the period.

Loons and grebes.—Red-throated loons were observed both in Wisconsin and Minnesota during the spring. Six were seen at Duluth, Minn., on May 21 (members of the M. O. U.). In Wisconsin they occurred in numbers along the Lake Michigan shore from Milwaukee to Cedar Grove from Apr. 4 to 10 (Mrs. Larkin and others). One was also reported there last winter. In previous years only 1 or 2 had been seen. Western grebes, also unusual, were seen in numbers in the same area (G. Orians, *et al.*).

Herons.—The great blue heron arrived near Minneapolis on Mar. 23 (Lupient), and Am. egrets were reported from the same locality on May 22 (Clements) and May 23 (M. Thompson). Several Am. egrets were back where they have previously nested, at Horicon Marsh, Wis., in April (Robbins).

Swans and geese.—Larger numbers than usual of whistling swans were reported this spring with a peak estimate of 5000 seen at Green Bay, Wis., on Apr. 7 (Earl Wright). Canada geese were first reported at Minneapolis on Mar. 3 (Lupient), while at Mud Lake Refuge in northwestern Minnesota, they were first seen on Mar. 31 (C. R. Alexander). There were several reports of scattered individuals of snow (lesser) and blue geese. From Midland, Mich., "A snow goose and 11 blue geese stayed at Linwood until May 14" (E. Kenaga); from Wisconsin, "Occasional reports of snow and blue geese in late March and most of April. This is usual for spring in Wisconsin" (Robbins); from St. Louis Co., Minn., "Two snow and 8 blue geese frequenting a pasture, near a small stream from Apr. 20 to May 12" (B. T. Williams); and from northwestern Minnesota, 5 snow and 20 blue geese were reported. Rare, for Wisconsin, was an immature white-fronted goose seen at Sauk City on Apr. 16 (S. Paul Jones & C. E. Nelson).

Ducks.—An early thaw caused an abundance of waterfowl early in the season in Michigan, and it was generally felt by observers throughout the region that the waterfowl flight was good with the exceptions of the baldpate and the pintail. Robbins reported baldpates below normal in Wisconsin, and Clements reported seeing very few pintails in the vicinity of Minneapolis. A European widgeon was seen on Lake Pepin in southeastern Minnesota, on Apr. 20 (Melone, Mierow, Struthers, Warner), and another was seen north of Duluth on Lake Superior, among baldpates, on May 19 (Jaques). An Am. scoter was observed on Apr. 1 (W. P. Abbott) and a white-winged scoter and old-squaws on May 21 (members of the M. O. U.) in Lake Superior, north of Duluth. An old-squaw was collected near Madison, Wis., on Mar. 25 (R. Hunt).

Hawks.—Turkey vultures were reported from several parts of Wisconsin, while near Midland, Mich., 3 were seen on Apr. 4 (E. Kenaga). Near Minneapolis, large flocks of hawks went through on Apr. 3. One group of red-shouldered hawks numbered 30, and the largest group of red-tails numbered 18 (Lupient). There were no reports of significant concentrations of migrating hawks in Wisconsin, but observers in Milwaukee felt that broad-winged and pigeon hawks were more plentiful than usual in April. There was a good flight of sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks at Two Rivers, Wis., near Lake Michigan (Winnifred Smith). A Swainson's hawk was seen as far east as Mazomanie, Wis., on May 15 (G. Doane, Mrs. Walker, *et al.*).

Shorebirds.—Several observers in Michigan reported that the cold weather during the latter two weeks in May concentrated the shorebirds. Large numbers of red-backed sandpipers were noted, as well as some unusual shorebirds: 5 knots on May 29, 1 Hudsonian curlew on May 28 and 8 dowitchers on May 14 (E. Kenaga). From Wisconsin, Robbins wrote, "What limited information we now have (May 31) indicates a good spring flight." A flock of 75 golden plover was seen in Dane County, Wis., on May 4 (Schorger) and a rather unusual record was that of a Baird's sandpiper in the same county on May 23 (Robbins). The abnormally dry weather had caused the disappearance of many shorebird "spots" in the vicinity of Minneapolis-St. Paul, and few were seen, but at Duluth there were some shorebirds on May 21, including 12 Hudsonian curlew (members of the M. O. U.).

Gulls.—Another unusual record for gulls should perhaps be added to the winter's list. An Iceland gull was reported from Essexville, Mich., by E. Kenaga, who wrote, "observed through 20X scope, a well-marked adult."

Perching birds.—Horned larks were "already on territory, in places, on Feb. 6," in south central Michigan (L. Walkinshaw), while north of St. Paul, Minn., several hundred were seen on Feb. 11 (B. Cummings). In northwestern Minnesota, cliff, barn, and tree swallows, "were here by the thousands" between May 20 and May 27 by C. R. Alexander, who also reported seeing a few magpies during the winter and early spring. Several Bewick's wrens were seen in the Madison area in early April and one remained throughout the month near the W. E. Scott home. A Carolina wren, usually found farther south in Minnesota, was noted in Minneapolis on May 21 (Lupient). There were two reports of mockingbirds being seen in Wisconsin, one from Waukesha Co., Apr. 18-22 (W. Ethier, C. E. Nelson *et al.*), and one from Madison, May 29 (G. Doane). A varied thrush, very rare for this region, spent the winter at the feeding station of

Mrs. O. T. Simmons, in Polk County, Wis. On Apr. 27, an Am. pipit was seen near Minneapolis, Minn. (Lupient).

There were no reports of marked "warbler waves." Mrs. G. Hall summarized the observations from Kalamazoo, Mich., thus, "Instead of the expected wave of early migrants, which a warm April indicated, warblers straggled through from Apr. 3 (myrtles), to the end of May." At Midland, Mich., E. Kenaga observed, "Torrid first two weeks in May brought in a flood of early migrants, including warblers." In Wisconsin there were no pronounced waves, with the exception of May 27, when many birds, but not just warblers, moved through. In Minnesota the situation was summarized by W. C. Clements, who wrote, "to generalize, I would say there were no real warbler waves. The myrtles appeared first, then palms and magnolias, with the Connecticut and mourning warblers arriving last!" Two unusual warblers were seen in Minneapolis, Minn.: a worm-eating warbler on May 22 (Swedenberg, Yerksa, Davidson) and an Audubon's warbler on Apr. 22 (Petersons). At Madison, Wis., a prairie warbler was noted on Apr. 25 (Robbins). Yellow-breasted chats were found at Mazomanie, Wis., on May 9 (Robbins *et al.*), and 1 was seen in Minnesota as far north as Red Wing on May 14 (Warner).

The western meadowlark is evidently continuing and "consolidating" the eastward extension of its range. E. Kenaga wrote concerning this at Midland, Mich., "Western meadowlarks increasing," and Mrs. Hall wrote from Kalamazoo, Mich., "Western meadowlarks more numerous," and added "one was observed, who sang the western song 3 times and the eastern song twice." White-throated sparrows were reported as more numerous this year than previously at Stevens Point, Wis., (Mrs. Hughes). A very early clay-colored sparrow was seen on Mar. 29 at Madison, Wis. (Mrs. R. A. Walker), and another early arrival at the same place was a Henslow's sparrow on Apr. 3 (G. Hall). —HARVEY L. GUNDERSON, *Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.*

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION.—East of the Mississippi River the mild winter was followed by a warm and early spring. The first half of May brought summer temperatures and heavy foliage to the trees, which were as much as two weeks ahead of schedule in Kentucky and Ohio. Farther west the weather was not so mild; April was distinctly cool and the leaves were retarded, giving excellent conditions for watching the bird migrants as temperatures became normal in May.

Egrets.—The Am. egret is still increasing in the North Central States. The colony on West Sister Island, near the western end of Lake Erie, the most northerly egret colony in the Great Lakes area, is being watched with great interest as a possible indicator of the status of this bird. Evidence of the continued increase was provided this spring by the presence of 60 egrets, an unprecedented number for spring, at one marsh on the Ohio mainland near the colony. Although egrets have been nesting here only 4 years, the banding of nestlings already has yielded returns from Jamaica and Costa Rica.

Ducks and geese.—After a winter which found a remarkable number of ducks and geese wintering in this region, especially in the southern part, the spring migration was good throughout the region. Small flocks of blue and lesser snow geese were seen at various places in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, where they are seldom recorded in spring. Possibly there is a connection between this dispersed spring flight and the wintering of these geese at scattered locations far north of the usual wintering areas on the Gulf. European widgeon were seen at Springfield, Ill., from Mar. 20 to 27 (Eifert); at Cincinnati from Mar. 17 through Mar. 21 (Austing); and near Toledo on Apr. 23 (Van Camp). Since we think of the old-squaw primarily as a duck of the sea or the Great Lakes, it is interesting to learn that several remained from the winter into early spring at Louisville (Lovell) and that 10 were seen on Mar. 20 at Lafayette, Ind. (Burr). Hooded mergansers were found nesting again at Louisville (3 broods) and at Lafayette. A loose egg of the hooded merganser was found by Kirkpatrick on the surprisingly early date of Mar. 7 at Lafayette and was incubated artificially with success. Throughout the spring and into early June, puzzled watchers at Akron saw a strange duck which appeared to be a mallard-gadwall hybrid (Fred Smith).

Quail, rails.—The bob-white, which has been precariously low in northern Ohio in recent years, seemed this spring to be showing some increase. The rare black rail was flushed by Claugus with the aid of a dog near Newark, Ohio, in late April.

Shorebirds.—Although there was no lack of suitable mud flats, shorebirds were scarce everywhere, from Cleveland to Kansas City. Still, there were several observations of interest: 3 Hudsonian godwits in spring plumage on May 15 near Iatan Marsh, 50 miles up the Missouri River from Kansas City (Sibley, Bishop, and Hedges); 42 Hudsonian curlew, a remarkably large number, on May 28 near Cleveland (Hill); a willet, probably western, on May 3 at Chalmers, Ind. (Mumford, Burr); and a Wilson's phalarope on May 2 at Bowling Green, Ky. (Mengel).

Gulls.—Although Bonaparte's gulls are common on the Great Lakes in migration, they are rare inland: 2 immatures near Lafayette on May 14 (Burr) were new records for that vicinity. An Ice-

land gull was seen at Lake St. Mary's in Ohio on Apr. 12 (Kemsies, Randle).

Perching birds.—East of the Mississippi, the migrants of early spring—robins, red-wings, and others—were generally on time or a few days early at most locations. Then, early in May, when most of the warblers normally pass through, temperatures rose to the high eighties and low nineties for several days. At this time, most observers found that migrants were few and in many cases *late*, except in the westernmost parts of the region. In fact, a number of people commented that they missed completely certain species they usually see in the spring. There is no agreement about the best day, so we conclude that there was no widespread "wave" of birds at any time. It seems possible that the summerlike heat-wave sent most of the migrants through at an accelerated pace, leaving mostly stragglers to account for late arrival dates and laggard departures. A bit of evidence in this direction was provided by Trautman, who was afield every day on South Bass Island in western Lake Erie. He saw only 1 water-thrush and 1 grasshopper sparrow alive, but he found 2 of each dead at the base of the 300-foot monument on the island, an indication that birds must have been passing overhead in numbers much greater than one would have supposed judging from observations on the ground.

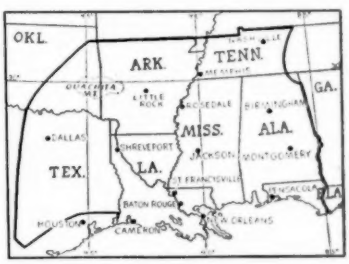
Warblers.—Comfort in St. Louis and Claugus in Newark, Ohio, remarked, as we did in Toledo, about an incredible abundance of Tennessee warblers this spring. Were these local coincidences? Were there actually *more* Tennessees in migration this spring? Or were conditions especially favorable to bring these inconspicuous birds into full song during passage and thus to give us an impression of exceptional numbers? Our evidence is seldom sufficient to give definite answers to questions like these.

Vireos, blackbirds.—Two inconspicuous birds which are probably expanding their range in this region and almost certainly await discovery in new locations now, are the Bell's vireo and Brewer's blackbird. Its distinctive song usually draws attention to the Bell's vireo in the brushy situations it inhabits. It was found this year, the third local occurrence, at Louisville on May 1 (Monroe) and was found for the first time in the southernmost part of Illinois by Brewer on May 24, where it was still present in June. Brewer's blackbird, a bird of the open fields, is overlooked easily among the crowds of blackbirds in the spring. But it is now being discovered at a number of locations where good observers have become alert to it. In recent years it has been found nesting at Kalamazoo, Mich., and has become established as a summer resident near Rockford, Ill. Brewer's blackbirds were found this year in southern Illinois on Mar. 16 (Hardy) at Hammond, Ind., on Apr. 8 and 12 (Davis) and at Toledo on Apr. 23 (Van Camp).

Longspurs.—At Lafayette a flock of 200 Lapland longspurs on Feb. 27 was an unusual item. At Toledo on May 1 there was a spectacular congregation of Lapland longspurs, exceeding in size any flock seen here previously. Most of the birds were in breeding plumage and the males were singing. A systematic but rather futile attempt to count these birds, some milling like blown leaves in the air and others creeping like mice through the winter wheat, brought a crude estimate of 10,000 on one half-section of land (Mayfield). A flock of 15 Smith's longspurs remained near Oxford, Ohio, from Apr. 9 to Apr. 30 (Austing), possibly the first completely satisfactory record of this species in Ohio.

Rarities.—Other rarities of the season were as follows: western kingbird at Janesville, Wis., from May 21 to 30 (Boynton and others); scissor-tailed flycatcher on May 20 near Murphysboro in southern Illinois (Brewer), one of the few records in history for this region; worm-eating warbler at Toledo on May 2 (Van Camp); at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, 2 yellow palm warblers on May 1 and a Kentucky warbler on May 2 (Trautman); Audubon's warbler at St. Louis on Apr. 16 (Van Benthuysen); yellow-headed blackbird seen at St. Louis on Apr. 16 (Hick), and found on May 7 and still present on May 26 at Lake Calumet near Chicago (Davis); painted bunting again this year near Zarah, Kans., where it has nested consistently in recent years, the only place in this region where the bird is known to nest; blue grosbeak on Apr. 30 and May 1 in southern Illinois, where it may nest (Brewer), and 12 blue grosbeaks at Murray, Ky., on Apr. 25 (Wyatt), the only positive record for that state in recent years; Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow at St. Louis on May 15 (Comfort); pine-woods sparrow at Lake Quivira, the second occurrence in Kansas (Hedges).—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 2557 *Portsmouth Ave., Toledo, Ohio.*

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION.—The present report is necessarily sketchy since the personnel that contributes at present the bulk of the material on which these reports are based was engaged in April and May in telescopic studies of night migration on the Texas coast and in field work in Mexico. Weston, at Pensacola, and Jeter, at Shreveport, were the only major collaborators who submitted a full report covering the present spring season.



Arrivals.—The appearance in numbers of transient migrants on the northern Gulf coast in spring occurs only under circumstances associated with cold-front storms. At such times, species that are otherwise rarely seen appear in remarkable concentrations. So pronounced is the dearth of mi-

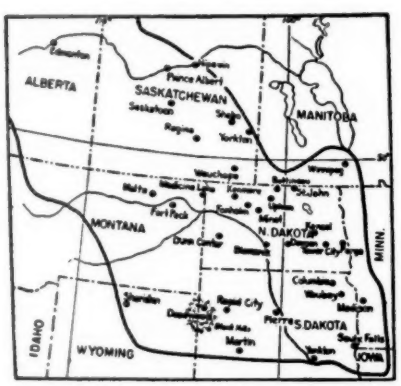
grants in fine weather that, in all probability, not a single "wave" of migrants would be recorded and many species of transients would go entirely undetected in the course of a whole spring should that season pass without the penetration of at least one cold front as far south as the Gulf coast. The past spring was generally fair and warm, and as a result, visible migration was negligible. Weston, at Pensacola, reported only two noteworthy concentrations of migrants in the period, one on Apr. 12, after 2 days of heavy rain and high shifting winds, and the other on Apr. 17, after 2 days of northerly winds but no rain. The flight of Apr. 12 included: white-eyed vireo and hooded warbler, abundant; prothonotary and myrtle warblers, orchard oriole, summer and scarlet tanagers, common; and a few each of ruby-throated hummingbirds, barn swallow, red-eyed vireo, prairie and Kentucky warblers, and oven-bird. The flight of Apr. 17 was made up of the following: wood thrush, red-eyed vireo, hooded warbler, orchard oriole, and summer tanager, abundant; eastern kingbird, catbird, white-eyed vireo, myrtle warbler, blue grosbeak, and indigo bunting, common; and one or several each of yellow-billed cuckoo, crested flycatcher, wood pewee, olive-backed and gray-cheeked thrushes, yellow-throated vireo, black and white, prothonotary, parula, worm-eating, yellow, and Kentucky warblers, oven-bird, yellow-breasted chat, Am. redstart, scarlet tanager, and painted bunting. Burns, at St. Francisville, La., recorded a significant concentration of migrants only on Apr. 29 and 30, especially the latter. Likewise, Vaiden, at Rosedale, Miss., commenting on the prolonged periods of warm, dry weather in the past spring, called to attention the notable lack of migrants in his region. Early or late dates of transient migrants usually are obtained when adverse weather develops either at the beginning or at the end of the migration season, concentrating large numbers of individuals of many species, some of which stand a good chance of exceeding previous dates for their respective species. This is not likely to happen very often in the case of date extensions beyond the first week of May, since that month on the Gulf coastal plain is noted for its fine weather. After that time, cold-front storms generally dissipate before reaching the coastal plain; they are held back and deflected eastward by the warm Gulf air mass. Under these conditions of fair weather visible migration on the ground is negligible, and one would think that northward migration had ended so far as this region is concerned. That birds are nevertheless continually streaming over the coastal plain at night is now amply proven by data yielded by telescopic studies of birds passing before the moon. Such new facts as these, adduced by the telescopic method, reemphasize the important rôle that weather plays in producing visible concentrations of migrants on the ground.

Departures.—The common loon was seen in protracted flight at Pensacola on May 8 (flightless cripples are sometimes present on the Gulf coast all summer). Horned grebes, which usually leave the coast before the end of March, stayed this year at Pensacola well into April, and all were in full nuptial plumage. Seven birds were seen there on Apr. 24, but a single bird observed on May 15, may have been injured. Two gannets at Pensacola on May 14 constitute a very late record for this species. Red-breasted mergansers were seen at False River, 25 mi. northwest of Baton Rouge, on May 20 (Moore), and at Pensacola on May 22 (Weston). An immature old-squaw at Pensacola on May 8 and 15 (Weston) supplements the record number of individuals of this species seen in the region in the last 6 months and which have already been commented upon in past reports. At Century, 40 mi. north of Pensacola, Mrs. Whigham noted at a feeding table the continued presence throughout the period of several unusual winter visitors reported in the last issue of *Audubon Field Notes*. Departure dates for these species were as follows: Baltimore oriole, Apr. 22; dickcissel, Apr. 25; purple finch, Apr. 23; pine siskin, May 5. The pine siskin was also seen at Shreveport on the unusually late date of May 14 (Jeter). Brewer's blackbird, a species not previously recorded in Louisiana in April, was seen a few miles below Holmwood on Apr. 14 (Newman, *et al.*) and at Shreveport on Apr. 17 (Jeter). Other late departure dates of interest were: at Pensacola, yellow-bellied sapsucker, Apr. 17 (Weston), myrtle warbler, May 11 (Weston), and white-throated sparrow, May 8 (Mrs. Whigham); at St. Francisville, fox sparrow, Mar. 19 (Bruns). A white-winged dove at Shreveport, La., on May 1 (Jeter) was probably a winter vagrant; there are no previous records of its occurrence in the northern part of the state.

Nesting.—At Baton Rouge, Richard F. Miller found a pair of Virginia rails in a small marsh several hundred yards north of the Louisiana State University campus on Apr. 26 and again on May 6, at which latter time the birds displayed behavior characteristics usually associated with the presence of young, which, however, Miller did not find. This is the first indication that the species may breed in Louisiana. In the same general area, amid fields of short grass stubble, Miller discovered also a single grasshopper sparrow on Apr. 17, Apr. 25, and again on June 18. Although this sparrow is reported by various authors to breed in Louisiana, there is still no certain record of its doing so. Miller found many nests during his stay in Baton Rouge in April and May, of which the following are noteworthy: brown thrasher nest with 1 egg and 2 newly hatched young on Apr. 6 (allowing 14 days for incubation this set was fresh about Mar. 23); loggerhead shrike nest containing 4 young about ready to fly on Apr. 15; eastern towhee nest with 2 eggs slightly incubated on Apr. 8. At Cameron, La., on Apr. 14, Mrs. R. J. Newman found a king rail with 7 young about 3 days old in a brackish marsh 500 yards from the Gulf beach. The earliest previous egg date for the state is May 1. Allowing 18 days for incubation, the present record indicates a date of approximately Mar. 24 for a fresh set of eggs. At Pensacola, Weston reported blue-gray

gnatcatchers working on a half-finished nest on May 3; the first full sets of least tern eggs on May 15 (L. E. Goodnight); rough-winged swallow with young just out of nest on May 29; several pairs of prothonotary warblers feeding young in the nest on May 20. Possibly the most noteworthy record for the entire region is that of a Bell's vireo seen at Shreveport on May 14 (Jeter) and observed at a distance sometimes as close as 3 feet. The bird was singing and also possessive of a clump of bushes wherein was found the beginning of a nest. A week later, however, the bird was not found, and the nest was still unfinished. The observation is important, nevertheless, for there are few authentic records for the species in Lousiana. Jeter previously found a singing bird at Robson (12 mi. southeast of Shreveport), on May 12, 1948, and Mrs. Hill Myers observed frequently a singing male in her yard at Mansfield (32 mi. south of Shreveport), in the spring of 1948.—GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.*

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION.—During April and the first part of May the weather was unusually warm and dry over most of the Northern



Great Plains area. Temperatures above 80° were recorded. This was followed by a cool spell during the latter part of May with frosts causing considerable damage to the blossoming fruit trees in the northern part of the region. Because of the earlier warm weather trees were in full foliage ahead of their usual time. From the observer's angle the migration was very disappointing. Many of the migrants were seen only in small numbers, and some common migrants were not recorded. In general, most of the early migrants were later than usual, and the later migrants earlier.

Egrets.—An Am. egret was observed at Sand Lake Refuge, Columbia, S. Dak. (Rollings). A snowy egret was seen near Kenmare, N. Dak., on May 4 (Hammond). This is the first spring record for this area.

Waterfowl.—In general the goose flight was improved over the area. Sand Lake Refuge reported an estimated 226,000 geese using the refuge this spring. At the peak of the migration from Apr. 1 to 10 the populations were as follows: common Canada 1500, lesser Canada and Hutchins's 5000, snow geese 40,000, blue geese 80,000 and white-fronted geese 5000. At LaCreek Refuge, Martin, S. Dak., the peak population of Canada geese was 10,000 on Mar. 19 (Krumm). This was the largest in many years. The heavy flight of snow and blue geese did not concentrate on Lower Souris Refuge, Upham, N. Dak., but made use of the flooded fields in the surrounding area (Henry). Arrival dates on mallards and pintails were later than usual, but most of the other ducks arrived ahead of schedule. The migration flight for the prairie provinces was the same or greater than last year with the peak occurring 2 weeks earlier (Cartwright). Mallards showed a slight increase in most of North Dakota. Bowdoin Refuge, Malta, Mont., had a large migration of canvas-backs with an estimated peak of 5000 on Apr. 18 (Snyder).

Hawks.—The hawk migration was very poor, with no reports of large flights from any area. All buteos, and especially Swainson's hawks are markedly decreased in North Dakota.

Cranes.—Medicine Lake Refuge, Medicine Lake, Mont., reported an unusually large migration of sandhill cranes with an estimated 15,000 observed during the migration. The peak occurred on Apr. 10 when 2300 were noted (Crawford).

Rails and coots.—Sora rails were noted to be more abundant on Lower Souris Refuge, with a peak on May 24 (Hammond). Coots showed a decrease over most of northern North Dakota (Randall), and the population on LaCreek Refuge was lower also (Krumm). Their status remains the same on Sand Lake Refuge (Rollings).

Shorebirds.—Like other birds, the shorebird migration was poor with no large movements noted. However, there were some interesting records. A flock of 35 ruddy turnstones was seen on Lower Souris Refuge on May 21, the largest number ever seen there (Henry, Johnson, Mann). One was reported from Regina, Sask., on May 23 (McLintock), and 2 from Des Lacs Refuge, Kenmare, N. Dak., on May 22 (Fermanick). Upland plover were more numerous at LaCreek Refuge (Krumm). One red-backed sandpiper was seen on Lower Souris Refuge on May 21 (Henry, Johnson, Mann). Buff-breasted sandpipers were reported from 3 places—a small flock at North Portal, Sask., on May 1 (Dunbar), 15 on May 9 at Botha, Alta. (Stiller), and 15 at Winnipeg, Man., on May 15 (Cartwright). Marbled godwits were generally scarce over the area. The only favorable report was that of 89 seen feeding on a small slough near Dawson, N. Dak., on Apr. 27 (Dundas). A Hudsonian godwit was observed on Lower Souris Refuge on Apr. 26, and 1 was recorded on May 24 in the same area (Hammond). Eight sanderlings were noted on Des Lacs Refuge on May 26 (Gammell). On May 29 an estimated 5000 northern phalaropes were seen on Upper Lostwood and Thompson's Lakes, Lostwood Refuge, Lostwood, N. Dak. (Latimer,

Gammell). Many of these birds were still in winter plumage.

Gulls and terns.—California and ring-billed gulls were reported more plentiful than last year at Sheho, Sask. (Niven). Black terns were noted in larger numbers in most of the areas frequented by them.

Owls.—Short-eared owls were scarce or absent over the northern part of the area.

Hummingbirds, larks, thrushes.—Ruby-throated hummingbirds were more common than in several years at Fargo, N. Dak. (Stevens). Horned larks were seen in tremendous flocks on Apr. 12 and 22 in the Kenmare, N. Dak., vicinity and were abundant between these dates. The thrush migration was reported as poor from Sioux Falls, S. Dak. (Donahoe), Kenmare, N. Dak., and Sheho, Sask. (Niven). Gray-cheeked thrushes were present in usual numbers at Fargo, N. Dak. (Stevens), and in unusual numbers at Madison, Minn. (Peterson). Mountain bluebirds arrived on Mar. 4 at Kenmare, N. Dak.; this was earlier than usual. They were seen repeatedly in spite of snow storms and their departure was also earlier than in former years. A Townsend's solitaire was reported from Saskatoon, Sask., on Apr. 10 and remained for 4 days (McPherson).

Vireos, warblers.—The red-eyed vireo was unusually common in migration at Fargo, N. Dak. (Stevens), and the warbling vireo was reported as the only vireo at Yankton, S. Dak., this season (Larrabee). The warbler migration was extremely poor throughout the area. The following comments from observers were typical: scarce at Tower City, N. Dak. (Preston); extremely poor migration at Saskatoon, Sask. (McPherson); poorest ever both as to species and numbers at Regina, Sask., with the exception of the yellow warbler (McLintock); conspicuous by reduced numbers or total absence at Yankton, S. Dak. (Larrabee); good list of species but low populations at Winnipeg, Man. (Sutton). Records of interest are: Chestnut-sided at Wilton, N. Dak., on May 19 (Gray); bay-breasted on May 9 at Bismarck, N. Dak. (Moses), MacGillivray's banded at Wilton, N. Dak., on May 22 (Gray).

Finches and sparrows.—With the exception of the Lapland longspurs there was generally a lack of large waves of migrating birds of this group throughout the region. Rose-breasted grosbeaks were more common at Fargo, N. Dak. Black-headed grosbeaks were seen at several places in the bottomlands of the Missouri River near Bismarck, N. Dak., on May 14 and 15 (Randall). Lark buntings were common west of the Missouri River in North Dakota (Moses). Slate-colored juncos were seen in reduced numbers in most of the areas. Harris's sparrows were reported as fewer or absent at Canton, S. Dak. (Mallory), Yankton, S. Dak. (Larrabee), Minot, N. Dak. (Saugstad), and Kenmare, N. Dak. They were average at Wilton, N. Dak. (Gray), common at Arrowwood Refuge, Kensal, N. Dak. (Neilson); and abundant at Tower City, N. Dak. (Preston). White-crowned sparrows were also spotted in distribution through the migration. McCown's longspurs were seen by the "dozens" in the fields around Regina, Sask. (McLintock). Lapland longspurs reached a peak at Kenmare, N. Dak., on May 12 when many large flocks were seen. Large migrations were also reported from Botha, Alta. (Stiller), and Sheho, Sask. (Niven). Smith's longspurs occurred in large numbers at Sheho from Apr. 11 to May 1.—Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Gammell, *Kenmare, N. Dak.*

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION.—This is a vast area characterized by flat to rolling grasslands with trees limited largely to ravines and stream valleys or upland sandy or rocky situations where deep-rooted oaks and red cedars have held their own against the more shallow-rooted grasses.

Characteristic birds of the true grasslands are the Swainson's hawk, ferruginous rough-leg, Mississippi kite, greater and lesser prairie chickens, upland plover, burrowing owl (now very local and limited in numbers), western kingbird, scissor-tailed flycatcher, Sprague's pipit, horned lark, loggerhead shrike, western meadowlark, Brewer's blackbird, dickcissel, lark bunting, Savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, vesper sparrow, Cassin's sparrow and Lapland, McCown's, Smith's and chestnut-collared longspurs.

Since the Southern Great Plains are bordered by the oak-savanna on the east, many birds typical of the eastern deciduous hardwoods are found along the water courses and timbered ridges which extend across the plains. Species limited chiefly to the timbered and brushy areas found in this region include the Bewick's wren, black-capped and Bell's vireos, Bullock's oriole, black-headed grosbeak, tree sparrow, Harris's sparrow and song sparrow.

The Rocky Mountain influence is conspicuous along the western border of the Great Plains since many species nesting in the mountains follow river valleys eastward to wintering grounds. In this category are the golden eagle, Lewis's woodpecker, Am. magpie, mountain bluebird, Townsend's solitaire, Audubon's warbler, white-winged, Oregon and gray-headed juncos, and house finch.

Man has added materially to the natural wooded and shrubby areas by planting shelter belts across the Plains, and trees and shrubs about homes and in parks. Species that have definitely increased their range because of such plantings include the Bewick's and house wrens, mockingbird, brown thrasher, robin, eastern bluebird, starling, Bell's vireo, warbling vireo, yellow warbler, English sparrow, orchard, Baltimore and Bullock's orioles, bronzed grackle, cardinal, black-headed grosbeak, Am. goldfinch, lark sparrow, slate-colored junco, Oregon junco, tree sparrow, chipping sparrow, Harris's sparrow, white-crowned and Gambel's sparrows, Lincoln's sparrow, and song sparrow.

Along the southern and southwestern borders of the Great Plains a few species range north and east from the semi-deserts of southwestern Texas. Characteristic members of this group are the scaled quail, road-runner (which has extended its range

clear across the southern part of the Great Plains into the oak-savanna), ladder-backed woodpecker and white-necked raven.

Civilization has also brought tremendous changes in the water areas over much of this region. Many of the lakes, marshes and streams have dried up or been drained, or at least fluctuate violently in water level due to destruction of vegetation on the watershed. This loss in suitable aquatic habitats has been somewhat offset by the hundreds of large reservoirs and thousands of farm ponds that now dot the Plains. Characteristic species that occur regularly on or about such impoundments include the eared and pied-bill grebes, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, Am. and snowy egrets, little blue heron, black-crowned and yellow-crowned night herons, Am. and least bitterns, several forms of the Canada goose, lesser snow goose, gadwall, cinnamon teal, golden eagle, king and sora rails, golden plover, long-billed curlew, willet, avocet, black-necked stilt, Wilson's phalarope, Franklin's gull, least and black terns, mourning dove, belted kingfisher, long-billed marsh wren, northern water-thrush and several forms of the red-wing.

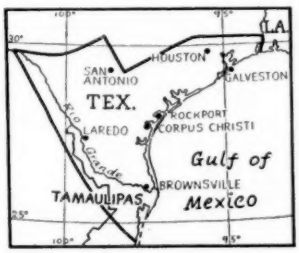
Weather conditions were normal in general. Late blizzards occurred in Colorado and rainfall was above normal in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. In contrast, precipitation was below average in the western half of the region.

Migration and nesting were somewhat delayed by the late spring. Early spring migrants were 5 to 10 days late at Stillwater, Okla. (Baumgartner), and bob-white covies did not break up until May 5, 2 to 3 weeks later than usual (DeArment). Yellow-crowned night herons were first noted at Tulsa, Okla., on Apr. 17, 3 weeks later than usual (Letson). No spring migration was noted at Topeka, Kans., until the end of the first week in March (Carson). Spring migration was unusually late and very erratic at Colorado Springs (Wagner) and at Weldona, Colo. (Rollin).

Waterfowl migration was reported to be normal throughout the region. Twenty thousand blue and snow geese were grounded by snow at Lawrence, Kans., on Mar. 12 (Sibley) and thousands of geese were reported as far west as Manhattan, Kans. (Carson). The goose flight was resumed on Mar. 19. Migration of land birds was disappointing in a few localities but was generally normal.

Distribution and migration records of local significance include: western grebe, Topeka (Carson); sandhill crane, 2-50, Norman, Okla. (Jones, Olivier, Whitaker); ring-necked pheasant, rare at Weldona (Rollin); golden plover, Tulsa (H. & C. Spore); black-bellied plover, Inola, Okla. (Ginter & B. Smith); long-billed curlew and willet, Osage Co., Okla. (Letsons); road-runner, Colorado Springs (Wagner); robin, Mar. 13, at Weldona (Rollin); warblers, rare at Topeka, possibly due to insecticide spraying (Carson); painted bunting, increasing at Topeka (Carson); gray-headed junco, May 4, Weldona (Rollin); song sparrow, 1st record, Council Grove, Kans. (Adams).—F. M. BAUMGARTNER, *Okla. A. and M. College, Stillwater, Okla.*

SOUTH TEXAS REGION.—In contrast to 1948, the spring of 1949 had many cold fronts striking south Texas during April and May. Each one of these swept before it a large number of migrants that accumulated in the Gulf coastal area, and made birding the best in years.



General conditions.—More species were seen, and more individuals, within the Apr. 14-25 period than ever before reported in a similar length of time. On Apr. 21 one party saw 150 species in the Galveston Bay area in an ordinary day of birding (Heiser), and another saw 148 the same day, without being out all day (Hamilton); four parties in the San Benito area saw 193 species in one day (Goldman); and one party saw 87 species on Matagorda Island within a circle of 100 yards radius (Vines and Williams); and one observer saw 16 species of warblers, 4 vireos, 3 thrushes, 3 flycatchers, and 16 additional species within half a city block in Houston (Craig). About 85 wholly transient (non-breeding, non-wintering) species were recorded; and a total of about 240 migrants were observed.

Numbers of individuals were likewise great. For example, on Apr. 24, on Galveston Island, there were countless thousands of orchard orioles and indigo buntings, hundreds of yellow-billed cuckoos, and at least 20 of the elusive black-billed cuckoos, to say nothing of over 100 additional species. On Matagorda Island, Apr. 16, there were hundreds each of orchard orioles, Am. redstarts, and dickcissels, besides scores of catbirds, Tennessee warblers, yellow warblers, as well as numerous individuals of many other species, all moving up the island in little groups throughout the day. Scarlet tanagers, seldom common, were seen in numbers up to 6 or 8 on numerous occasions.

No regular migrants were missing; several uncommon ones were common; and many early and many late dates were recorded.

Waterfowl.—Apparently most of the geese were gone by the first week of April. But a flock of over 500 Canada geese near Lavaca Bay on Apr. 8 was late, as was a small mixed flock of blue and lesser snow geese at Cove on Apr. 17. A few of most species of ducks lingered to mid-May; and gadwall, blue-winged teal, shoveller, redhead, canvas-back, and lesser scaup were at Rockport (but not at Cove or Galveston) into June. At Cove the peak of the green-winged and blue-winged teal migration was Mar. 20; of the baldpate, Apr. 8; of the shoveller, Apr. 17. At Galveston the peak of the red-breasted merganser migration (1000 birds) was Apr. 16.

Hawks.—The only major hawk migration noted was a Cove, by McKay, with 11,000 to 12,000 broad-wings on Apr. 5. McKay reported a swallow-

tailed kite at Cove (first in 8 years) on Apr. 5.

Shorebirds.—Golden plover and mountain plover were normally abundant. The former arrives in winter plumage on the Texas coast, and lingers till summer plumage has been achieved. Solitary sandpipers and upland plover were common, but less abundant than last year. Greater yellow-legs were more common than usual, and lesser yellow-legs less abundant. Small flocks of the latter species, however, were migrating steadily up Galveston Island all day on May 1. Few buff-breasted sandpipers were reported. Stilt sandpipers, usually regular though not plentiful, were abundant in some places. The Hudsonian godwit, almost never seen (since 1932) till the last 2 years, was reported several times at Rockport and Galveston in late April, and Cove on May 3. Avocets are growing more common everywhere in the area, and extended east to Galveston Bay in small numbers during late April. Wilson's phalaropes came earlier than ever before (Rockport, Apr. 7; Cove, Apr. 17), and were extremely numerous at Rockport on May 1. The knot, an uncommon spring migrant, was reported at Galveston on Apr. 21 and May 1 (2 birds).

Gulls.—Franklin's gulls were still migrating at San Benito on May 12 (Goldman), but had apparently ceased coming through Rockport on Apr. 24. At Galveston, 17 Bonaparte's gulls on Apr. 23, and 27 were an unusual number (Watson).

Doves, nighthawks, swifts.—Red-billed pigeon arrived in the Rio Grande Valley on Mar. 10, and white-winged dove, Apr. 14 (Goldman). A white-winged dove at the north end of Matagorda Island, Apr. 16, was rather far north and east. A Texas nighthawk on Galveston Island on Apr. 27 (seen under ideal conditions for comparison with eastern form) is the second one reported from the area for many years. Chimney swifts arrived in Houston (retreating south before a cold front) at the very early date of Mar. 13; but many were migrating north at El Campo in the forenoon of Apr. 15, into a north wind; and many were migrating north at Houston on Apr. 24, 5:30 a.m. A white-throated swift was seen at Wharton (far east of the normal range) on Apr. 15 (Williams).

Flycatchers.—The western kingbird was reported only once, on Matagorda Island, Apr. 16 (2). Eastern wood pewees were extraordinarily numerous everywhere from Apr. 9 into mid-May, with casual individuals lingering in Houston to June.

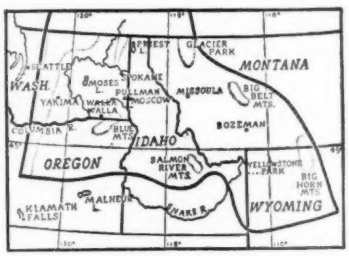
Thrushes.—The veery and gray-cheeked thrush, not usually common in this area, were reported frequently, Apr. 21-30. The olive-backed thrush was less numerous than in most years. The hermit thrush lingered at Cove to Apr. 10.

Warblers.—This spring, 33 species of warblers were reported on the Texas coast, including Swainson's warbler at Cove, Apr. 20-24, and May 8 (McKay); golden-cheeked at Rockport, Apr. 21 (Mrs. Hagar); black-poll at Cove, Apr. 22 (the second McKay had ever seen there, though the bird is a common spring migrant at Rockport); Connecticut warbler at Houston, Apr. 20 (second time reported there in spring, though it is a regular spring migrant through Rockport). Blue-winged and cerulean warblers, regular but scarce spring migrants, were almost numerous in the latter half of April. Except for the Nashville warbler (Cove, Apr. 23), the mourning warbler (Rockport, Apr. 21), and the golden-cheeked, all the warblers were reported in some numbers, and mostly from several places. Black and white, yellow, and Tennessee warblers and Am. redstarts were seen by the hundreds almost everywhere.

Sparrows.—Most of the wintering sparrows disappeared between Apr. 15 and 21; but Lincoln's and Savannah were at Cove to May 12.

Extra-limital rarities.—Besides the warblers mentioned above, the following extra-limital species were reported: **Glaucous gull** at Rockport, Apr. 10-24 (Mrs. Hagar); golden-fronted woodpecker at Rockport, Apr. 27; mountain bluebird (♂ and 3 ♀s) near Seadrift, Apr. 26 (D. H. Braman); Bullock's oriole at Rockport, Apr. 21; hepatic tanager at Rockport, Apr. 19-25; lazuli bunting at Rockport, Apr. 28 and May 8; **Sharpe's seedeater** near Victoria, on Guadalupe River, Apr. 30, about 200 miles north of usual range (many individuals seen by D. H. Braman).—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston Tex.*

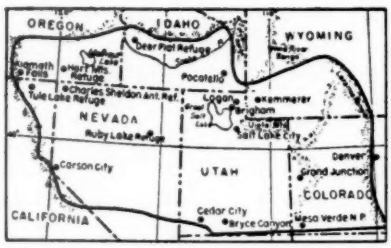
PALOUSE, NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—The nesting season was delayed in the Palouse-Rocky Mountain area this year because of a late spring. Many of the migratory birds arrived late, the violet-green swallows, warblers, flycatchers and vireos, for instance. Nest-building, which ordinarily would get under way early in May, was delayed until late May or early June.



On the field trip made by the ornithology class from Walla Walla College to Moses Lake, Wash., we noticed that most of the ducks, herons, marsh wrens, and even the yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, were not yet laying eggs by the middle of May, while in ordinary years we would expect young birds in the nests by that date. A nest of marsh hawks which we watch every year had young birds about a week old instead of the usual 3 weeks. No duck nests were found at Moses Lake, where ordinarily we find dozens of them. Marsh wrens were just beginning to build, and blackbirds were in the process of constructing their nests. A western grebe's nest with 4 eggs was discovered. At Deep Lake near Coulee Dam we found no signs of nesting by any species, while usually we could find orioles, warblers, flycatchers and vireos nesting at the west end of the lake. In all we can say that in eastern Washington, at least, the nesting season was about 3 weeks behind the usual dates.

There have been no reports from Idaho, eastern Oregon, southern British Columbia, Montana or Alberta, but we feel it is safe to assume that conditions in those areas have also been behind the usual schedule. We hope that in the future bird watchers from these areas will send in notes so that we may have this area represented adequately.—ERNEST S. BOOTH, *Department of Zoology, Walla Walla College, College Place, Wash.*

GREAT BASIN, CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.—Throughout much of the region there appeared to be little effect from the extra-



ordinary winter. While many of the arrivals were tardy, the nesting season is progressing on schedule. Heavy seasonal rains had some adverse affect upon some of the nesting birds, especially the shorebirds.

Uncommon observations were those on the glaucous gull, Scott's oriole, and red-eyed vireo, reported around Salt Lake City by C. W. Lockerbie, and a red-eyed vireo and hooded oriole reported from near the southeastern limits of the region by Harold Higgins.

Grebes, pelicans and cormorants.—Western grebes arrived early, on Mar. 20, at the Bear River Refuge. The latest arrival date was reported from the higher location of Alamosa, Colo., by Robert M. and Julia W. Armagast. An estimated 2800 eared grebes were noted at Bear River on May 3; Malheur Refuge, Oreg., reported a peak of 20,000 on May 20 according to R. C. Erickson, who noted that they were nesting at the end of the period. John E. Schwartz recorded the arrival of 15 white pelicans at the Sheldon Refuge near Cedarville, Calif., on May 18; they were not observed at Ocean Lake, near Casper, Wyom., until May 30, when 30 were reported by Dr. Oliver K. Scott. Cormorants arrived by mid-March at Salt Lake City (C.W.L.), but were scarce at Payson, Utah (Dr. Pfouts).

Herons.—Snowy egrets made their usual appearance at Bear River during mid-April. Usually wintering, the great blue herons were absent from Bear River Refuge until Mar. 11; this species was also noted at Sheldon (J.E.S.), and wintered at Deer Flat Refuge, Idaho (W. A. Rodgers). Birds of this group are now nesting in abundance at BRR.

Geese.—Canada geese were reported in their usual wide distribution, with note of their having suffered through the extreme winter. Nesting at the BRR was down considerably from past years; however, the rate of survival appeared satisfactory.

Ducks.—Few comparisons were made with previous duck migrations; however, the numbers occurring at the mentioned areas appeared to be comparable with those of former years. Nesting at BRR appeared to be progressing favorably, with an increase noted in the number of gadwall nests. The unusual and spectacular note of the period in this group was the observation of over 20,000 ruddy ducks at BRR. Baldpates were also up from previous years. Schwartz noted a general increase of waterfowl at Sheldon Refuge, which he attributed to the greater availability of water. Elmo Adams at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev., reported that species arriving later in the season were rather close to schedule, although the early arriving species were somewhat tardy as compared with former years. Redheads and ruddies were noted near Salt Lake City early in March by Lockerbie. As expected, this arrival coincided with that of the same species at Bear River, where the peak on redheads occurred between Apr. 15 and May 3. This peak showed an increase over that of last year. The peak duck population at Ruby Lake Refuge, Nev., occurred near the first of April according to Baine H. Cater. The time of this peak roughly coincided with that of much of the region. Green-winged teal reached a peak of 175,000 on Apr. 4 at BRR. A dozen wood ducks were reported at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (R.C.E.). E. C. D. Marriage observed a wood duck nest containing 9 eggs in an old magpie nest near Carson City, Nev., on May 22.

Hawks.—Malheur Refuge reported a peak population of 30 turkey vultures on Apr. 25; also a ferruginous rough-leg nest with 2 young, and a golden eagle nest with 2 young (R.C.E.). One osprey was observed at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (R.C.E.), and 2 near Vernal, Utah, by Clifton Greenhalgh. Oliver K. Scott at Casper, Wyom., reported that hawks have been on the downward trend for several years.

Cranes, rails and coot.—Sandhill cranes were fairly plentiful at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev. (E.A.). R. C. Erickson reported that the sandhill crane population was down 15 to 20 per cent at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., where they reached a peak of 350 on Apr. 30. The Am. coot reached a peak of 200,000 on May 15 at Malheur; also 1 sora rail was seen there Apr. 13 (R.C.E.).

Shorebirds and gulls.—Avocets were observed throughout most of the region in large numbers; they reached a peak of 8000 at BRR on Apr. 15; Malheur Refuge, Oreg., reported 800 on Apr. 20 (R.C.E.); 450 were seen at Ogden Bay, Utah (Nolan Nelson); they are reported as one of the most common birds at Alamosa, Colo. (Armagast); Adams noted that they were "around every wet spot" at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev.; and Lockerbie stated that they were abundant near Salt Lake City. Forster's terns were abundant at Malheur Refuge, where 10,000 were observed on Apr. 30; at BRR 4000 were noted on May 14. Killdeers, curlews, black-necked stilts, and gulls were common throughout most of the region during the period, but Dr. Pfouts reported a scarcity of curlews and avocets at Payson, Utah.

Owls.—Two burrowing owls were observed nesting near Carson City, Nev., on May 7 (E.C.D.M.). Many juvenile short-eared owls just learning to fly and a horned owl, with half-grown young, were observed at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., on May 29 (R.C.E.). Fourteen short-eared owls were reported at Ogden Bay, Utah, May 16 (N.N.), and 15 were counted at BRR, May 13.

Hummingbirds, woodpeckers.—Lockerbie observed 10 calliope hummingbirds on May 14 and 2 broad-tailed hummingbirds near Salt Lake City on Apr. 20. Two broad-tailed hummingbirds were noted at Alamosa, Colo. (Armagast). Red-shafted flickers were first seen at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev., Apr. 9 (E.A.). Lewis's woodpecker reached its peak of migration the middle of May at Malheur Refuge, Oreg. (R.C.E.).

Passerine birds.—Western kingbirds were first seen near Salt Lake City by Lockerbie on May 28, they arrived at Hart Mountain Refuge, Nev., on May 6 (E.A.), and at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., on May 2. Two eastern kingbirds were seen at the latter refuge on May 16 (R.C.E.). A Cassin's kingbird was reported from near the southeastern limits of the region by Harold Higgins. Say's phoebes were reported at Malheur Refuge, Oreg., where they were nesting (R.C.E.); at Alamosa, Colo., 2 were nesting under a second-story balcony on Mar. 18 (Armagast). Cliff and barn swallows continue to use the Bear River Refuge in large numbers. Oliver K. Scott reported that starlings are becoming increasingly more common in central Wyoming and are now frequently seen at Casper; they were also noted at Ogden Bay, Utah (N.N.). Four red crossbills were observed near Casper, Wyom. (O.K.S.). E. C. D. Marriage observed large flocks of Bullock's orioles near Carson City, Nev., on May 9, and small flocks of willow goldfinches (May 5); also Arkansas goldfinch (May 5), western tanagers (May 19), cedar waxwing (May 30), Bohemian waxwing (May 30), loggerhead shrike (May 12), yellow-throat (May 15), and Bullock's oriole (May 11). At Alamosa, Colo., the yellow warbler arrived on May 7; Audubon's warbler on May 8, green-tailed towhee on May 8, goldfinch on May 13, and song sparrow on Mar. 15 (Armagast). Juncos were observed throughout most of the region during the period.—JOHN B. VAN DEN AKKER and VANEZ T. WILSON, *Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham, Utah.*

SOUTHWEST REGION.—Although the early part of the spring was slow and marked by a generally late migration, unusually hot weather during the last half of April restored conditions to normal, and the latter part of the migration was more on schedule. Precipitation was generally lacking after last winter's extraordinary snowfall, even though skies were unusually cloudy in the higher elevations, and especially so in the Flagstaff-Grand Canyon area.

Loons, grebes, pelicans.—Common loons were in migration on Havasu L. from Apr. 13 to 28, with a record peak of 40 present on Apr. 26 (Monson). Five horned grebes were seen on the Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., Apr. 14 (R. Fleetwood). The white pelican migration in the Colorado R. valley, lasting until after Apr. 22, seemed to be heavier than normal; more than 20 were present at Topock, Ariz., in early June (M.).

Herons, egrets, and ibises.—Two Am. egrets were seen at Snowflake, Ariz., May 5 (L. Levine). First migrant snowy egrets were noted at El Paso, Tex., Apr. 6 (L. McBee), at Topock, Apr. 10 (M.), and at Snowflake, Apr. 17 (L.L.). The only early green heron arrival was reported from Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, Ariz., Apr. 6 (B. Jackson). Black-crowned night herons were noted, perched in trees, at Snowflake, Apr. 23 (L.L.). White-faced glossy ibis were reported along the Rio Grande in New Mexico north of El Paso, Apr. 10 (L.M.); at the Bosque Refuge, Apr. 18 (R.F.); at Topock, Apr. 27 (M.); and at Snowflake, Apr. 23 (L.L.). Seventy-nine were seen near San Antonio, N. Mex., Apr. 29 (T. Davis).

Swans, geese and ducks.—A whistling swan lingered at the Bosque Refuge until Apr. 21 (R.F.). An unusually late flight of snow geese, whose origin is speculative, passed over Havasu L. on Apr. 24, when 4 flocks totaling 172 were seen (G. Osbun); the latest wintering birds were noted in the Colorado valley, Mar. 15 (M.). Two were still present at Bitter Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, N. Mex., May 19 (R.F.), and 3 were seen at the Bosque Refuge the previous day (T.D.). Departure dates for some ducks on Havasu L. Refuge follow: green-winged teal, 9, Apr. 29; shoveller, 7, Apr. 29; canvas-back, 2, Apr. 6; Am. golden-eye, 2 (at Headgate Rock Dam near Parker, off the refuge), Apr. 29; buffle-head, 10, May 10; and Am. merganser, 1, Mar. 28 (M.). Six shovellers were noted at Radium Springs, N. Mex., until May 23 (L.M., M. Keefer). A male ring-necked duck was still present at Tucson, Ariz., May 12 (E. & V. Morton). An unusually late pair of blue-winged teal was seen in the Bill Williams Delta, Ariz., June 3 (M.). A very late Am. golden-eye was seen on the Bosque Refuge, May 27, and a hooded merganser stayed until Apr. 21 (R.F.). The red-breasted merganser flight on Havasu L. was not as heavy as last year's; it extended from Apr. 13 to May 10, although 12 were still present on June 4 (M.). The general duck migration this spring was apparently lighter than usual throughout the region.

Hawks.—The last sharp-shinned hawk was noted in the Bill Williams Delta, Apr. 29 (M.), and at least 1 was still present at El Paso, May 12 (L.M.). Two Swainson's hawks were seen on the Bosque Refuge, Apr. 7 (R.F.), an early arrival. Zone-

tailed hawks were reported from the Colorado R. Indian Reservation near Parker, Apr. 3 (M.), and from Tucson, May 7 (A. Phillips). The first Harris's hawk in 20 years was seen at El Paso, Apr. 22 (L.M., M.K., Mrs. Rose). Late marsh hawks were observed at Topock, Apr. 27 (M.); at El Paso, Apr. 30 (L.M.); and near Tucson, May 1 (A. & A. Anderson, A.P.). A good osprey migration passed through the Colorado valley from Apr. 6 to 26 (M.); the first 1 was noted on the Bosque Refuge, Apr. 7 (R.F.). A pigeon hawk was seen near Tucson, May 1 (A.A.'s, A.P.).

Rails and coots.—A clapper rail, possibly an arriving bird, was seen at Headgate Rock Dam, May 18 (M.). The last soras were noted at Topock, Apr. 28 (M.), and at the Bosque Refuge, May 27 (R.F.). Downy young of coot were seen on Ascarate L., El Paso, June 7 (L.M.).

Shorebirds and gulls.—The last Wilson's snipe in the Bill Williams Delta was seen Apr. 29 (M.); on the Bosque Refuge, it was observed until May 6 (R.F.). Spotted sandpipers, which were uncommon during the winter and April, were common at the peak of their migration on Havasu L., May 10, and the last 1 was observed in the Bill Williams Delta, June 3 (M.). Solitary sandpipers were seen on the Bosque Refuge from Apr. 14 to May 12 (R. F.). About 50 willets were seen at Aguirre L., in the Altar valley, Ariz., Apr. 30 (A.P.). A greater yellow-legs seen at Topock, June 8, was probably summering (M.). A flock of dowitchers that wintered at Anthony, N. Mex., departed Apr. 30 (H. McGuire); 1 was still present at Bitter L. Refuge, May 19 (R.F.). Western sandpipers migrated through the Colorado valley, Apr. 21 to 27, with a peak of 187 seen at Topock, Apr. 22 (M.). A black-necked stilt nest with 4 eggs was discovered at Anthony, May 13 (Gen. G. Meyer). The California gull migration at Havasu L. lasted until May 10 (M.). A Franklin's gull was seen there, Apr. 18 (M.), and another was reported from San Antonio, Apr. 28 (R.F.).

Doves through kingfishers.—An unusually early white-winged dove was seen near Parker Dam, Calif., Apr. 2 (M.), and a New Mexico record came from Anthony, where 1 was seen, May 15 (L.M., M.K., H.M.). Regular arrival dates were: Empire Mts., southeast of Vail, Ariz., Apr. 2 (C. Beach); Bisbee, Ariz., Apr. 13 (Mrs. A. Orton); and Bill Williams Delta, Apr. 29 (M.). A yellow-billed cuckoo was noted on the Bosque Refuge, May 11 (R.F.). Young horned owls were out of their nest near Laguna Dam, Calif., May 25 (N. Morgan). Two whip-poor-wills were noted in the Organ Mts., N. Mex., May 7 (Mrs. H. Conway). Texas nighthawk arrivals were noted Apr. 10, in lower Oak Creek Canyon, Ariz. (M. Wetherill), and Apr. 18 at Boulder City, Nev., (W. Pulich). Vaux's swifts were scarce this spring; they were noted only in the Bill Williams Delta, Apr. 29 (M.), and at Tucson, May 7 (A.P.). Three broad-billed hummingbirds were seen in Peck Canyon, southwest of Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, Apr. 24 (B.J.). This was a poor spring for hummers. The last belted kingfishers were observed at Topock, Apr. 10 (M.), and on the Bosque Refuge, Apr. 14 (R.F.).

Woodpeckers.—A red-headed woodpecker was seen on Bitter Lake Refuge, May 15 (R. Hunter). Two Lewis's woodpeckers were present at Grand View on the south rim of the Grand Canyon, May 7 (H. Bryant). Departure dates for yellow-bellied sapsuckers were Apr. 9 at Topock (M.), and at Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l. Monument, Ariz. (H. & R. Crockett); and Apr. 23 at Anthony (H.M.).

Flycatchers and swallows.—Western kingbirds arrived at Anthony, Mar. 22 (H.M.); at Parker, Apr. 2 (M.); at Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, Apr. 8 (B.J.); and at Boulder City, Apr. 20 (W.P.). The last black phoebe on Havasu L. was seen at Needles Landing, Apr. 17 (M.). The first local record for Say's phoebe at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, was obtained May 8 (M.W.). Western wood pewees were unusually scarce in the Colorado valley (M.), and at Grand Canyon (H.B.); however, they were reported as common at Radium Springs, May 23 (L.M., M.K.), and in the Hualpai Mts., Ariz., May 23 to 28 (A.P.). The first returning female vermilion flycatcher was seen at Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, Mar. 9 (B.J.). Three purple martins were observed in Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mts., N. Mex., May 22 (R.F.).

Jays through waxwings.—A Clark's nutcracker was seen on Baldy Pk. in the Magdalena Mts., May 22 (R.F.). House and Bewick's wrens were scarce throughout the region, virtually absent in many parts. Mockingbirds were dispersing through the desert areas contiguous to the Colorado R. by Apr. 17; young were a-wing in late May (M.). A brown thrasher was present in El Paso, Apr. 24 to 26 (L.M.). Sage thrashers were more numerous than usual at Snowflake, leaving about Apr. 15 (L.L.). A belated robin was seen at El Paso, May 7 (L.M.). Olive-backed thrushes were not noted in most areas this spring, signifying that their numbers are way down. Ruby-crowned kinglets (another species that has been unusually scarce), were last noted on Apr. 15 in the Bill Williams Delta (M.), and May 1 in Madera Canyon of the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., A.P.), and Socorro, N. Mex. (R.F.). Plumbeous gnatcatchers were feeding young just out of the nest near Topock, Apr. 14 (T. Clark). The latest Am. pipits were 1 seen at Havasu L., Apr. 18 (M.), 4 at Aguirre L., Apr. 30 (A.P.), and 1 at Bitter Lake Refuge, May 19 (R.F.). A phainopepla was seen at Snowflake, Apr. 16 (L.L.), and a nest, brooded by a male, was found at Radium Springs, May 23 (L.M., M.K.). The cedar waxwing was common at Snowflake, May 12 to 13, apparently feeding on cottonwood seed pods (L.L.).

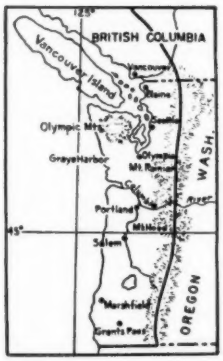
Wood warblers.—Most warblers were scarce this spring, especially those forms transient in the Lower Sonoran Zone. Exceptions were Virginia's warbler, Lucy's warbler, Sonora yellow warbler, and yellow-throat. A Nashville warbler was seen at Tucson, Apr. 9 (A.P.). Virginia's warblers were "abundant" in the Hualpai Mts., May 23 to 28 (A.P.). A Lucy's warbler nest along Beaver Dam

Wash., Ariz., held young on May 12 (W.P.). The same species was feeding fledglings at Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, May 22 (B.J.) Yellow warbler arrivals were noted at Tucson, Apr. 9 (A.P.); at Topock, Apr. 10 (M.); on the Bosque Refuge, Apr. 20 (R.F.); and at Snowflake, Apr. 23 (L.L.). A male was still present in the Upper Sonoran Zone of the Juniper Mts., Ariz., May 21 (A.P.). Two late Audubon's warblers were seen in the Hualpai Mts., May 26 (A.P.). A Grace's warbler was seen at Granite Reef below the junction of the Salt and Verde Rivers, Ariz., Apr. 15 (C.'s). Macgillivray's warblers were still migrating on Walnut Creek in the Juniper Mts., June 1 (A.P.). The earliest chats were 1 noted near Parker Dam, Apr. 21 (M.), and 3 at Socorro, May 1 (R.F.). The last Wilson's warbler was seen at Topock, May 24 (M.), but they were still present on Walnut creek, May 31 (A.P.). Four red-faced warblers were seen on Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz., Apr. 21 (T.C.). A male Am. redstart was found in the Hualpai Mts., May 27 (A.P.).

Blackbirds.—A meadowlark was seen in Lobeck's Pass, south of Needles, Calif., Apr. 27 (M.). A large flock of yellow-headed blackbirds was observed south of Perryville, Ariz., Apr. 8 (C.'s). Bullock's oriole arrival dates were Parker Dam, Apr. 9 (M.), and Snowflake, Apr. 28 (L.L.). Their numbers are lower, than usual this year. Two boat-tailed grackles were seen at Rillito, Ariz., May 7 (R. Reed), and near Tucson, May 15 (M.). A male red-eyed cowbird was seen near Arivaca, Ariz., May 5 (B.J.).

Finches and sparrows.—Black-headed grosbeaks were not noted in the Colorado valley (M.). A nest just being begun, also a finished nest, were found at Radium Springs, May 23 (L.M., M.K.), and one being built was seen in the Hualpai Mts., May 23 to 28 (A.P.). Blue grosbeak arrivals were noted at Parker Dam, May 5 (M.), and on the Bosque Refuge, May 7 (R.F.). Although no evening grosbeaks were observed at Snowflake, where they are usually seen (L.L.), they were common at Grand Canyon Village almost to the end of May (H.B.). Am. goldfinches were unusually scarce at Snowflake, but Arkansas goldfinches were numerous there in early May (L.L.). A late spotted towhee was present at Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument, Apr. 13 (B.J.). Lark sparrows were unusually scarce at Tumacacori Nat'l. Monument (B.J.). The last chipping sparrow was noted in the Colorado valley near Vidal Jct., Calif., Apr. 17 (M.); first arrivals were detected on Apr. 5 at Flagstaff (M.W.), and Snowflake (L.L.). The mountain song sparrow was still present at Tucson, Apr. 10 (A.P.), and on the Bosque Refuge, May 7 (R.F.).—GALE MONSON, *Havasu Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Parker, Ariz.*

NORTH PACIFIC COAST REGION.—In the central part of the region temperatures, generally, were above normal. In April many mornings were overcast and cool, with the sun coming out in the afternoon. May's rainfall totaled 1.35 inches; it was



generally a month of good weather, with 14 days having temperatures of 70° or higher. The snow line in the Cascade Mountains was lower than at any time for a number of years. At Tahsis, on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, the first three weeks in April were stormy, with high velocity winds. At Comox, Vancouver Is., April was about normal; May set a record for clear, hot days, which apparently sent northern nesting birds scurrying to their nesting grounds. A further census showed the effects of the long, cold winter, more noticeable in the wilderness areas (Pearse).

Loons, grebes.—At Comox, loons were very scarce. One arctic loon was seen in full plumage, May 31. Common loons and 1 arctic loon were seen at Newport, Apr. 30 to May 1 (Simon, McNab, Williams, Millette). A common loon was seen on the shore of Lake Washington, Seattle, Apr. 26 (Mrs. Grove). At Comox, Holboell's, horned and western grebes showed a decrease, although there was a heavy movement of westerns on Apr. 8 (Pearse). Horned grebes were noted at Newport, and Holboell's at nearby Waldport, Apr. 30 to May 1 (Simon).

Shearwaters, petrels, and cormorants.—Five slender-billed, and 5 sooty shearwaters were recorded at Westport, Apr. 30 (McMannama). Sooty shearwaters and fork-tailed petrels were seen at Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg., Apr. 30 (McNab, Leupold, Millette). A few double-crested and a flock of at least 1000 pelagic cormorants were feeding on herring during the middle of April at Comox (Pearse). Baird's cormorants were seen at Boiler Bay, Apr. 30 (McNab, Leupold, Millette). One pair of Brandt's and 1 pelagic cormorant (both transients) were seen at Tahsis (Mitchell).

Herons.—Great blue herons were very scarce at Comox until mid-May. Their numbers were still much below normal at the end of the period (Pearse). On 3 visits to the Lake Washington swamp bordering the University campus, Seattle, May 20 to 31, as many as 2 green herons were seen. It is hoped further search may reveal a nest (Higman). Am. bittern was seen in this swamp on Apr. 9 (Goodge). A bittern was seen at Portland, Apr. 24 (uncommon) (Bartlett).

Swans and geese.—Twenty-three trumpeter swans wintered at Tahsis, but left early, due to the killing of 1 bird and the wounding of a juvenal (Mitchell). About 200 large Canada geese were seen south of Amity, Oreg., Apr. 3 (T. O. Clark). About 100 Canada geese were seen in migration, Apr. 10, at Medina, east shore of Lake Washington (Hagenstein). At Green Lake, Seattle, 2 pairs of Canada geese had young, about May 5 (Don Curran); geese have nested sparingly around Seattle for the past several years. Numerous flocks of Canada geese passed over Tahsis from Apr. 1 to 21

(Mitchell). Brant were numerous at Comox during the first of the period. A count from Nanoose Bay to Little River, 50 miles, totaled 20,000, comparing favorably with 1948. The brant were attracted by spawning herring and picked up floating eggs and egg-covered seaweed. They were seen for the last time on May 7, which is early for their departure (Pearse).

Ducks.—The duck movement in general was light at Comox, except when they concentrated on the herring run (Pearse). At Seattle, 12 broods of mallards in the University swamp, from May 20 to 31, consisted of 74 young. The male European widgeon, which wintered at Comox, was last seen on May 22 (Pearse). A pair of baldpates was seen at Green Lake, Seattle, May 12 (McMannama). Eight male blue-winged teal, a record number, were seen near Comox, May 22 (Pearse). A few immature male shovellers were still at Green Lake, Seattle, May 12 (McMannama). The last of the migrant golden-eyes was seen at Medina, Apr. 10, and the last buffle-head on Apr. 24 (Hagenstein). Six summering harlequin ducks, apparently mated, were seen at Tahsis (Mitchell). White-winged, surf, and Am. scoters were seen at Newport, Apr. 30 to May 1 (Simon). Five summering white-winged scoters were noted at Tahsis. A pair of Am. scoters was seen at Westport, Apr. 30 (McMannama). Hooded mergansers were scarce at Comox. Red-breasted mergansers were below normal, except when concentrated on the herring run, and then were only in fair numbers. Am. mergansers maintained their numbers; more than 50 adult and juvenal males were seen near Comox during May (Pearse).

Vultures and hawks.—A pair of turkey vultures was seen west of Salem, Oreg., Apr. 3 (Clark). Bald eagles seem to be holding their own at Comox; other predators were very scarce. An osprey was first seen, Apr. 23 (Pearse).

Cranes, shorebirds.—Two sandhill cranes were reported at Northey Lake, Vancouver Is., one of the few areas for the limited coast population (Pearse). Large numbers of semipalmated plovers were seen at Westport, Apr. 30 (McMannama). The same species was observed at Comox, Apr. 29 (Pearse). At Comox, small sandpipers were much more numerous than last year, only 1 Hudsonian curlew was seen, greater yellow-legs came on Apr. 3, and dowitchers were very scarce (Pearse). At Westport, on Apr. 30, a few Hudsonian curlews, a very large flock of western sandpipers, some greater yellow-legs, and a few red-backed sandpipers and sanderlings were seen (McMannama). Hudsonian curlews, red-backed sandpipers, long-billed dowitchers and sanderlings were observed at Newport and vicinity, Apr. 30 to May 1 (McNab, *et al.*) Spotted sandpipers were seen at Medina, May 15 (Hagenstein). A red phalarope was found dead on the beach at Westport, Apr. 30 McMannama). Northern phalaropes were noted on the Oregon coast, Lincoln Co., Apr. 30 to May 1 (McNab).

Gulls.—Two glaucous gulls were seen on the coast in Lincoln Co., Oreg., Apr. 30 (Simon). Most of the glaucous-winged gulls at Westport on Apr. 30 were immature birds. Only 1 ragged juvenal was at Green Lake, May 12 (McMannama). There were more than the usual summering gulls at Comox, composed mainly of glaucous-wings. The herring were still running. California gulls passed through Comox in goodly numbers on Apr. 2 (Pearse). Four Bonaparte's gulls, 1 with full plumage, were seen at Green Lake, Seattle, May 12 (McMannama). There were very few Bonaparte's gulls at Comox (Pearse).

Doves, owls.—The band-tailed pigeon population at Comox was very much smaller, possibly showing the effect of too much shooting in the south (Pearse). In Seattle, where there is no shooting, a flock of 25 (large) was seen in the northeast section, Apr. 13 (Grove). A saw-whet owl was seen in Portland, May 10 (uncommon) (McNab).

Hummingbirds.—Rufous hummingbirds arrived at Medina, Apr. 6 (Hagenstein), and were abundant at Tahsis (Mitchell). Eggs in the nest were observed at Yelm, southeast of Olympia, Wash., Apr. 30, and young in the nest, May 14 (Goodge). The calliope hummingbird, recorded sporadically since 1909, was present at Hope, B. C., at the end of the period. Although no nest has been found, both male and female were seen. Hope is close to the western limits of the range (Mrs. Thacker).

Kingfishers, woodpeckers.—At Comox, belted kingfishers were apparently badly hit by the cold winter; they were missing from most of their regular locations (Pearse). All species of woodpeckers were low in numbers at Comox. In a census, June 1, in over a 1½ mile area of logged-over land, now having a good growth of deciduous and small evergreen trees, only 2 red-shafted flickers were seen, to 4 last year (Pearse). Three Lewis's woodpeckers were flycatching in Lincoln Park, Seattle, May 8 (not common) (McMannama). A red-breasted sapsucker was feeding young southeast of Olympia, Wash., May 14 (McMannama and Goodge).

Flycatchers and swallows.—Garrett Eddy reported a good breeding season for small land birds in the Seattle area so far. A western kingbird was observed at Portland, Apr. 24 (uncommon) (Bartlett). Western flycatchers were heard at Portland, Apr. 24 (J. B. Williams), Seattle, Apr. 26 (Mrs. Grove), Yelm, Apr. 30 (Goodge and McMannama), and at Comox, May 8 (Pearse). Western wood pewees were first noted in Portland, Apr. 30 (Wagner). They crept into the Seattle area, and were first heard in the Arboretum, May 12 (Grove). They arrived at Comox, June 1 (Pearse). All flycatchers were few in numbers at Comox. Olive-sided flycatchers were first noted in the Madrona District, May 7 (Goodge), and in Medina, May 9 (Hagenstein). Violet-green swallows were in a Seattle nesting box, May 15 (Grove). Many tree swallows were noted south of Amity, Oreg., Apr. 3 (Clark). Mrs. Grove reported them scarce in Seattle. At Tahsis summering tree swallows were seen several times in flocks of about 20 (Mitchell). Bank swallows were first noted at Portland, Apr. 17 (Bartlett). The barn swallow arrived at Oswego,

about 10 miles south of Portland, Apr. 13, and at Medina, Wash., Apr. 24 (Hagenstein). Cliff swallows arrived at Medina, Apr. 8 (Hagerstein). All swallows were fewer in numbers at Comox. Purple martins were observed, Apr. 14, at 2 places where they nested last year (Pearse).

Bush-tits through wrens.—Bush-tits were building nests at Medina, Apr. 15 (Hagenstein); several nests were observed in Seattle, Apr. 28 (Grove). Red-breasted nuthatches were seen at Yelm, Apr. 30 (Goodge). Nuthatches were quite rare at Comox. Brown creepers were singing on the "prairies" south of Tacoma, Wash., May 8 (Grove). A wren-tit was seen at Newport, Apr. 30 or May 1 (Millette, McNab, Williams, Layman). Winter wrens have almost disappeared from the Comox area; Bewick's wrens were little better (Pearse). Fully-fledged Bewick's wrens were out of the nest in Seattle, May 21 (Goodge). About half the normal number of long-billed marsh wren's nests were counted in the University swamp, Seattle.

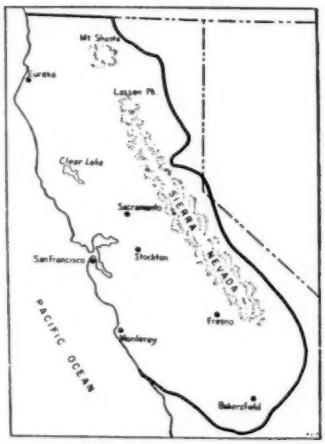
Thrushes, waxwings.—Only 1 pair of nesting robins claimed the area in northeastern Seattle, formerly used by 3 (Grove); 9 summering robins (probably *caurinus*) was the greatest number seen at Tahsis (Mitchell). Varied thrushes (several singing) were still in the Seattle area on Apr. 13 (Grove). Hermit thrushes were noted in Portland, Apr. 27 (late) (Layman). Mrs. Grove saw them in Seattle, May 9. Russet-backed thrushes were heard southeast of Olympia, May 14, and at Comox, May 17 (Pearse). Townsend's solitaires were singing in the Seattle area, Apr. 2 (Goodge). Bohemian waxings were noted at Oswego, Oreg., Apr. 16, which is late for this irregular winter visitor (Millette).

Vireos, warblers.—Hutton's vireo was first noted at Renton, just south of Seattle, Apr. 3 (Goodge). The solitary vireo was recorded at Oswego, Apr. 10 (Millette), and at Comox, Apr. 12 (normal in numbers) (Pearse). It was incubating at Seattle, Apr. 28 (Grove). The warbling vireo was first noted in Portland, Apr. 14 (Judd), in Seattle, Apr. 26 (Grove), in Medina, May 4 (Hagenstein), and at Comox, May 8 (normal in numbers) (Pearse). Orange-crowned warblers were first heard in Portland, Apr. 2 (Layman). They arrived at Comox on Apr. 10. Usually the most common warbler, it was below normal (Pearse). It was building in southeastern Seattle, Apr. 28 (Grove). A nest with 4 eggs was seen at Yelm, May 14 (Goodge, McMannama), and almost completely fledged young were out in Madrona Park, Seattle, May 21 (Goodge). The first Nashville warbler was seen at Oswego, Oreg., Apr. 24 (Millette). Yellow warblers were first noted at Portland, Apr. 19 (Crowell), and there were scattered birds at Westport, Apr. 30 (early) (McMannama). This species was plentiful at Comox on May 8, but there was no migration of Audubon's warblers (Pearse). The first black-throated gray warbler was seen at Portland, Apr. 17 (McNab). They were abundant at Yelm and Vale, Wash., on Apr. 30. There seemed to be a notable increase in the species at Seattle (Eddy). Many were heard in Seward Park, Seattle, Apr. 28 (Grove). They came to Medina on May 6 (Hagenstein). Three or 4 Townsend's warblers were heard at Seward Park, Seattle, Apr. 28. There were many on the Tacoma "prairies," May 8 (Grove). Hermit warblers arrived at Portland, Apr. 20 (early) (McNab), and were noted south of Tacoma, Apr. 30 (Goodge). Macgillivray's warbler was first noted at Portland, Apr. 24 (Bartlett), at Yelm and Vale, Wash., Apr. 30 (Goodge), on the Tacoma "prairies," May 8 (Grove), and in the Madrona District, Seattle, May 21 (first year seen in this locality) (Goodge). The yellow-throat was first observed in Cowan Park, Seattle, Apr. 13 (Grove), and at Medina, Apr. 17 (Hagenstein). It was low in numbers at Comox, where nest and eggs were seen on May 31 (Pearse). Black-capped (pileolated) warblers were first seen at Portland, Apr. 17 (Bartlett). The species came to the Comox area on Apr. 26, and seemed to be above normal in numbers (Pearse). One collected at Yelm on May 14 was *chryseola* (Goodge).

Finches and sparrows.—The first lazuli bunting was noted at Portland, Apr. 30 (Judd). A sizable flock of evening grosbeaks was seen in Seward Park, Seattle, Apr. 26 (Grove). They were in the Seattle area as late as May 17 (Goodge). Purple finches were seen at Vale, Wash., May 14 (Goodge, McMannama). At Comox they were few in number (Pearse). Red crossbills were frequently heard at Comox, after having been very scarce the past 2 to 3 years (Pearse). Spotted towhees were out of the nest at Seattle during the week of May 9 to 14 (McMannama). The sparrow migration was poor at Comox, except for the Savannahs, Apr. 26, which seem to have recovered their numbers, after being very scarce in 1948 (Pearse). Oregon juncos were out of the nest in Seattle the week of May 9 to 14 (McMannama). Chipping sparrows arrived at Medina, Apr. 24 (Hagenstein); they were abundant at Yelm, Apr. 30 (Goodge). The white-crowned sparrow was first heard at Seattle, Apr. 7 (Goodge), and arrived in numbers at Medina, Apr. 24 (Hagenstein). Golden-crowned sparrows were migrating at Medina, Apr. 3 and 23 (Hagenstein). Mrs. Grove had them in Seattle, May 14. Seventeen summering birds were observed at Tahsis (Mitchell). Song sparrows were rare at Comox; only 1 on the June 1 census, as against 4 in 1948.—MARTHA R. FLAHAUT, *Washington State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Wash.*

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION.—Lack of rain was a prominent feature of weather in California in April. This was the second driest April on record. Grasslands dried out early and the plants there grew less than usual. Trees and some shrubs were less affected by this turn of weather, and they produced good growth because of the earlier rains. Many kinds of land birds continued to be scarce and the individuals seen on migration were even less than usual. Hummingbirds remained scarce; such insect-eating birds as woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, bush-tits,

thrushes, vireos, warblers were much fewer than in moist years and most were fewer than last year. Partly this resulted from the severe conditions of last winter and partly from the continued small number of insects produced in the successive dry spring seasons.



Water birds.—Western grebe, Oakland end of Bay Bridge, last on Apr. 22 (Pray); Año Nuevo Point, 40 to May 21 (Cogswell); black-footed albatross, off Monterey shore, 15 on May 29 (Andersons); sooty shearwater, off Monterey shore, about 100,000 on May 29 (A.); double-crested cormorant, Brooks Islands power line, about 900 on May 28 where there were 5000 last fall (C.); black brant, Humboldt Bay, about 15,000 on Apr. 5 (Evenden); blue-winged teal, Carmel River slough, pair on May 15 and 16 (Mann); green-winged teal, Gray Lodge Refuge, 7 on Apr. 23 (E.); pintail, Gray Lodge Refuge, 2 on May 5, last seen (E.); gadwall, Gray Lodge Refuge, last seen, 3 pairs on Apr. 23 (E.); Am. golden-eye, Humboldt Bay, Apr. 5 (E.); red-breasted merganser, Bay Farm Island, about 25 in pairs on Apr. 23 (C.).

Hawks.—Swainson's hawk, between Chowchilla and Raymond, in foothills of Madera County, 2 pairs on May 8 (Cogswell); osprey, San Andreas Lake, San Mateo Co., May 21 (C.); sparrow hawk, Oakland, young began to leave nest box on June 3 (Seibert).

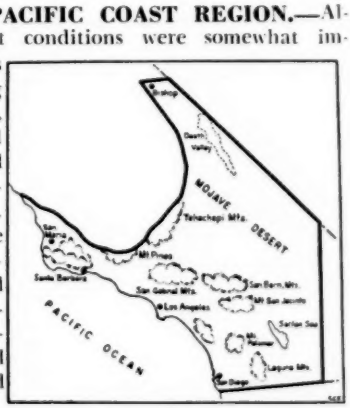
Shorebirds.—Golden plover, Bay Farm Island, May 6 (R. W. Storer) and 8 (Seibert); semipalmated plover, Bay Farm Island, about 400 on Apr. 23 (Cogswell); marbled godwit, Bay Farm Island, about 200 on Apr. 23 (C.); wandering tattler, mouth of Malpaiso Creek, Apr. 1 (Williams), Point Bonita, Marin Co., Apr. 27 (Pray and Nelson); ruddy turnstone, Bay Farm Island, about 50 on May 6 (Storer); black turnstone, Bay Farm Island, flock of 7 on Apr. 23 (C.); long-billed dowitcher, Bay Farm Island, peak of migration, thousands, on Apr. 3 (Kelly); knot, Bay Farm Island, highest number, 75, on May 5 (K.); western sandpiper, Bay Farm Island, 100,000 on Apr. 23 (C.); 25,000 on Apr. 24 (K.); avocet, Bay Farm Island, 300 on Apr. 23 (C.); red phalarope, Pt. Pinos Lighthouse, flying in scattered masses and in ribbonlike formations, sometimes 1000 or more in sight at once, on May 16, present until May 21 (Paca), Moss Landing, 8 on May 29 (Andersons).

Terns.—Caspian tern, Moss Landing, first on Apr. 10 (Andersons), Bay Farm Island, 30 on Apr. 23 (Cogswell), Courtland, Sacramento Co., 1 on Apr. 24 (Evenden); Forster's tern, Berkeley Aquatic Park, about 70 on May 14 (C.).

Non-passerine land birds.—Band-tailed pigeon, Carmel, nestling found on ground hand reared after Apr. 26, free flying after June 10 (Williams); pigmy owl, Bass Lake, Madera Co., May 8 (Cogswell); burrowing owl, flat valley east of Dublin, Alameda Co., 1 on Apr. 24 (C.).

Passerine birds.—Western flycatcher, Carmel Highlands, at least 2 fledglings left nest on May 31 (Williams); western wood pewee, Corral de Tierra, Monterey Co., Apr. 23 (Andersons), Alamo, Contra Costa Co., Apr. 24 (Cogswell); bank swallow, Moss Landing, colony distinctly larger than last year (A.); cliff swallow, Salinas Air Base, 12 appeared at old barracks on May 31, 3 pairs began to build, increased each day until June 10 when there were 75 birds and 20 nests (A.); Steller's jay, Carmel Highlands, last fledgling left a nest on May 30 (W.); varied thrush, Jawbone Ridge, Sonora Co., 1 on Apr. 10 (C.); hermit thrush, Berkeley, last wintering bird, Apr. 23 (Pray), Redwood Park, Oakland, adults feeding young, May 29 (Seibert); russet-backed thrush, Berkeley, Apr. 21 (P.), Gray Lodge Refuge, Apr. 23 (Evenden); cedar waxwing, Sacramento, last week of March to second week of May (E.); phainopepla, near Oroville, 2 on May 6 (E.), near O'Neals, Madera Co., May 7 (C.); chat, Carmel Highlands, May 6 (W.); hooded oriole, Oakland, common in some places (S.); cowbird, Bass Lake, male and female, May 8 (C.); lazuli bunting, Albany, male singing, obviously migrant, Apr. 24, San Mateo and Santa Cruz Cos., abundant in small canyons and valleys back of ocean terrace, May 21 (C.); evening grosbeak, Marysville, Apr. 23, Sacramento, through mid-May (E.); Harris's sparrow, Berkeley, wintering bird last seen on Apr. 19 (P.); golden-crowned sparrow, between Salinas and Monterey, last on May 1 (A.); white-throated sparrow, Oakland, last seen Apr. 15 (S.), Berkeley, Apr. 21 (P.).—JEAN M. LINSDALE, *Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.*

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION.—Although drought conditions were somewhat improved in this region during the past winter, the subnormal rainfall resulted in a lag of vegetation growth. The departure of winter visitants and arrival of summer visitants and migrants appeared to be delayed this year.



Water birds.—Eared grebes in nuptial plumage were found numerous at Salton Sea on Apr. 19 (Comby); a black-footed albatross was noted inside the San Pedro Channel on Mar. 30 (Comby). With few exceptions, the most noteworthy reports on migratory waterfowl for this season came from the Salton Sea Refuge. O'Neill reported 80 Canada geese at the refuge during the first week of February, but by Feb. 19 only 30 were present. The number dropped to 12 on Mar. 5; white-fronted geese dwindled from 300 on Feb. 6 to 40 on Mar. 5; lesser snow geese numbered 7500 on Feb. 6 and then decreased to 1 bird on Mar. 19. On Apr. 15, 2 birds were present, and 5 a few days later; 10 mallards moved in on Mar. 8 and on Apr. 23, 4 birds were still present. Pintails, which numbered 7000 during the winter season, showed a marked decline in numbers; on Mar. 5 there were 2400; Mar. 13, 1200, and 600 on Mar. 26. According to O'Neill, it was apparent that the concentration had definitely passed its peak by Mar. 1. Green-winged teal remained stable through February, with 300 on Mar. 5, and 3100 on Mar. 26. By the last week of April the population had dwindled to 600. The winter population of cinnamon teal, which numbered 1000 birds, dwindled to 60 during the last week of April. Shovellers dropped to 2300 birds in early March and then remained rather steady. By the last day of March there were an estimated 3800 present. By Apr. 30 the number had dropped to 130. Redheads and canvasbacks disappeared completely by the end of April but lesser scaup remained in groups of 20 to 100 along the southwest portion of Salton Sea. Fifteen buffle-heads were observed on Apr. 15 (O'Neill). Two pairs of Am. golden-eyes were observed at Newport Bay on Mar. 4 and 3 more at Carlsbad on the same date (Comby). An adult Am. golden-eye was observed flying along the beach at Santa Barbara on Apr. 2 (Rhett).

Hawks, vultures and eagles.—Approximately 200 turkey vultures were moving in a westerly direction over San Gabriel on Mar. 3 (Comby); 6 to 8 were noted over Santa Barbara on Feb. 20 (Rhett). A solitary white-tailed kite was noted between Oxnard and Port Hueneme on Apr. 26 (Greene). Nine Swainson's hawks were observed over Griffith Park on Feb. 27 (Russell), 1 bald eagle at Santa Catalina Island on Mar. 20 and another at Anacapa Island on Apr. 20 (Comby). A bald eagle was recorded at Summerland on Feb. 13 (Rhett), and an osprey at Mission Canyon near Santa Barbara on Mar. 13 (Rhett).

Shore and marsh birds.—The greater sandhill crane which made its appearance at Playa del Rey during the winter was still present on Feb. 27 (Comby). Hudsonian curlew were reported fewer in number in the Redondo Beach area this year, due to plowing under of alfalfa fields which formerly attracted large numbers of this species (Shuart). Shuart also reported wandering tattlers bunching up into small flocks instead of being solitary. As many as 23 were noted in one flock on Apr. 17 at Redondo. An Am. knot was seen at Alamitos Bay on Mar. 14 (Comby). At Salton Sea the white pelican population remained much the same as reported during the winter, until Mar. 26, when 1200 were there. The following week 2000 birds were recorded, after which the population dropped to about 450. Nesting started in April with more than 300 nests recorded (O'Neill).

Jaegers, gulls and terns.—At Salton Sea, ring-billed gulls, which were there since the winter season, continued to feed in agricultural fields of Imperial Valley, with an estimated 2000 birds present through Apr. 30 (O'Neill). Eight laughing gulls migrated to the Salton Sea about mid-April and have remained. A small population of gull-billed terns arrived about Apr. 7 and by the following week there were an estimated 500 individuals there. The first eggs were laid on the small sandy islands at this time. Caspian terns arrived about Apr. 18, but did not start nesting until the last of April (O'Neill). A parasitic jaeger flew near Anacapa Island on Apr. 30 (Comby); and an immature common kittiwake was seen in the San Pedro channel on Mar. 30 (Comby).

Non-passerine land birds.—A short-eared owl was noted at Playa del Rey on Feb. 27 (Comby). The first Allen's hummingbird was observed at Santa Barbara on Feb. 21 (Rhett), and at Griffith Park on Feb. 27 (Russell). A male rufous hummingbird was recorded at Griffith Park on Apr. 24 (Russell). The concentration of Lewis's woodpeckers which remained in the Banning area throughout the winter was last seen on May 16 (Wilson).

Passerine land birds.—A pair of vermilion flycatchers was observed at China Lake, Kern Co., on May 14 (W. R. Fish). Russell noted a varied thrush as still present at Griffith Park on Apr. 3, and another was observed at Dalton Canyon on Mar. 7 (Comby). A Townsend's solitaire was noted at Santa Barbara on Feb. 16 (Rhett). A Tennessee warbler was observed closely at Anaheim on Apr. 3 (Comby). Shuart reported a wave of warblers, with hermits predominating, through the Palos Verdes Hills on Apr. 29 and 30. The first hooded oriole was recorded at Santa Barbara on Mar. 16 (Rhett). Russell reported the hooded oriole as much less common this season at Griffith Park, where it was far outnumbered by Bullock's orioles. Cardinals were recorded at the San Gabriel Sanctuary on Feb. 6 and Apr. 10 (Rusterholz). Blue grosbeaks were fairly common in Orange Co. during April, with 6 birds seen on Apr. 26 (Whiting). The lazuli bunting was reported from Griffith Park on Apr. 24 (Russell) and from Santa Barbara on Apr. 27 (Rhett). Large flocks of Lawrence's goldfinches were feeding and singing in the walnut groves of Hemet on Feb. 11 (Friesen). There was a rufous-crowned sparrow at Sunland on Mar. 28 (Kent), and a Lincoln's sparrow was still present at Griffith Park on Apr. 3 (Russell). A white-throated sparrow remained at Santa Barbara until Apr. 15 (Rhett).—KENNETH E. STAGER, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles 7, Calif.*